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# THE AMERICAN MUSEUM,

For JANUARY 1788.

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*An oration, in commemoration of the independence of the united states of North America, delivered July 4, 1787, at the reformed calvinist church in Philadelphia, by James Campbell, esq. To which is prefixed an introductory prayer, by the rev. William Rogers, A. M. Published at the request of the Pennsylvania society of the Cincinnati.*

## *Introductory prayer.*

**S**UPREMELY great and infinitely glorious Lord our God! from everlasting to everlasting thou art the same! unchangeable in thy nature, in thy word, and in all thy works! clothed with light as with a garment, and with majesty as with a robe! who makest the clouds thy chariot, and walkest upon the wings of the wind! possessed of every adorable attribute and divine perfection.

We, thy unworthy but dependent children, assembled on this joyful occasion, humbly desire to approach the throne of thy grace, in and through the merit of thy coequal son, our ever blessed Saviour! for his sake, be pleased to pardon our manifold sins, and to blot out all our transgressions! justify our persons through Immanuel's righteousness, and sanctify our natures by the powerful influences of thy most holy spirit! may we wholly

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be devoted to thy service, and live uniformly to thy praise!

With united hearts, and uplifted voices, we render unfeigned thanks to thy name, O thou sovereign Ruler of all worlds, for those numberless mercies wherewith we have been and continue to be visited! we adore thee for thy creating power, preserving goodness, and redeeming love! suffer us never to forget any of thy favours, as we are altogether undeserving, even of the least! particularly, O God! are the inhabitants of these states, on this day, under the strongest obligations to bless thy name, for that liberty, civil and religious, which they so fully enjoy! we would join the general body, and ascribe praise and thanksgiving to thy adorable Majesty, for this auspicious anniversary, a day long to be remembered by us and future generations! a day, whereon this extensive continent was, by the representatives of a numerous and oppressed people, declared free and independent!—Heaven approved the declaration, our arms were crowned with success, sweet peace hath visited our borders, the soldier once more became the citizen; retiring, without regret, from stations of command, our military officers returned with cheerfulness to the several duties of domestic and tranquil life! our ears are no more

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pierced with the confused noise of war, our eyes are no longer pained with the horrid spectacle of garments roll'd in blood. While we thus thankfully acknowledge thy reiterated favours in our political hemisphere, we beg leave also to mention thy providential smiles in crowning the year with thy goodness, and causing thy paths to drop fatness; "Our pastures are clothed with flocks, our fields are covered over with corn and with wheat, our husbandmen shout for joy, yea they also sing."

That we may continue to enjoy these important blessings; be pleased, O Lord, to visit all the nations of the earth, and incline their hearts to peace and love; shower down upon them thy heavenly grace; may they know thee as the King of kings and Lord of lords! in an especial manner, do thou visit our land, graciously regard our country, protect and defend our infant, but hitherto highly-favoured empire, bless our congress, smile upon each particular state of the union; may those who are in authority rule in thy fear, prove a terror to evil doers and a praise to them who do well! as this is a period, O Lord! big with events, impenetrable by any human scrutiny, we fervently recommend to thy fatherly notice that august body, assembled in this city, who compose our federal convention; will it please thee, O thou eternal I am! to favour them from day to day with thy immediate presence; be thou their wisdom and their strength! enable them to devise such measures as may prove happily instrumental for healing all divisions and promoting the good of the great whole; incline the hearts of all the people to receive with pleasure, combined with a determination to carry into execution, whatever these thy servants may wisely recommend; that the united states of America may furnish the world with one example

of a free and permanent government, which shall be the result of human and mutual deliberation, and which shall not, like all other governments, whether ancient or modern, spring out of mere chance, or be established by force. May we triumph in the clearing prospect of being completely delivered from anarchy, and continue, under the influence of republican virtue, to partake of all the blessings of cultivated and civilized society! in tender mercy bless this commonwealth, the president, vice president, and supreme executive council, our legislative body, and the respective judicial departments!

Finally, we commend to thy paternal regard, all orders of men, all seminaries of useful learning, the ministers of thy gospel of every denomination, the church of Christ, and all for whom we ought to pray. With heart-felt gratitude we anticipate the glorious era, when instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree, and wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of the times, both in church and state.

Prepare us, O Lord, most holy! for every dispensation of thy righteous providence, for life, for death, for judgment, and the joys of paradise—Humbly intreating thy gracious assistance, in suitably discharging all those duties enjoined us by thy word, and enforced by thy authority, we close this, our solemn address, by saying, as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has taught us—

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

DEDICATION.

*To the honourable Thomas M<sup>c</sup>Kean,  
esq. doctor of laws, and chief justice  
of the state of Pennsylvania.*

*Sir,*

AS a publication of the following sheets is requested by a society, whose wish bears with me the weight of a command, permit me to beg that your name may accompany it. I am the more induced to make this request, as the distinguished share you have had in our national councils, the presidency your important office gives you over almost every blessing which freedom and independence can bestow; and your unremitted exertions, official and personal, in establishing that great event, to commemorate which was the design of this performance; all join to designate you the most proper person to whom I can look for patronage. Unaccustomed to write, and never having spoken publicly before, it was neither my object or expectation to rise to applause; my hopes were negative; and to escape censure is my utmost wish. With sentiments of the highest respect,

I have the honour to be, sir,  
your obedient humble servant,  
JAMES CAMPBELL.

*An oration, &c.*

IT is so much a rule of modern declamation to make the exordium to consist of personal apology, that any departure from it might, I fear, be deemed a violation of that respect which is held to be due from a speaker to an audience; and indeed if there ever was propriety in the rule itself, or justice in the popular construction of its omission, I feel it to be at this very moment, when I have so much occasion to intreat, and you so much room to extend your indulgence, and when not to express,

would be in some degree not to feel that deference which the presence of such an assembly can never fail to inspire.

Sensible, then, as I am, of the difficulty of the task which your partiality has commanded me to perform, and conscious of my inequality to discharge it as I ought, I am left without an alternative but to make choice of a subject, which from the relation it bears to the purposes of your institution as well as the occasion we are now convened to commemorate, will in some degree insure to me that candour and attention which, were I to rest on any abstracted efforts of my own, must necessarily be withheld.

This subject, gentlemen, you will at once anticipate, in reflecting on the advantages which have resulted to mankind from the independence of America. A summary recital of those advantages will constitute the principal object of my present enquiry and discussion.

Our petitions and remonstrances having been rejected, and insult being added to injury, it became at once essential to our safety and freedom to burst the bonds of dependence and shake off the yoke of foreign legislation. It was this bold but necessary measure which gave us rank among nations. It was this that emancipated us from military law, and rescued us from all the horrors of slavery. Had not this act and the events which it drew after it, taken place, how very different at present would have been our situation. In place of contemplating the majesty of a free people, convened in awful simplicity to consult their safety and promote their happiness, we should have beheld the pomp and extravagance of royal governors trampling upon the sacred rights of the people, and treating them in all their acts of power as if they were created only to minister to their pride or ambition.

The property of our merchants would have been held by a precarious tenure—our country would no longer have been cultivated by the proprietors and sovereigns of the soil—a farmer and a slave would have been synonymous terms. If then, such would have been our situation in a state of subjugation to Great Britain, how much have we gained by a separation from her! Welcome then the glorious anniversary of American independence—for ever welcome be the return of that day which made us citizens of a republic, and gave us a rank in the scale of being—high—above the subjects of a monarchy. To comprehend the dignity of a republican, turn to the page of history, and contemplate the different characters of the freemen of Greece and Rome, and the slaves of the Egyptian and Persian empires—or compare the speeches of a Cicero and a Cato with the fervid addresses of the parasites who surrounded the thrones of the Roman emperors. But why should we travel back to antiquity for examples of the dignity of conduct and sentiment inspired by a republican form of government?—we have beheld the citizens of the united states raised by their personal interest in the government of their country to a pitch of glory which has excited the admiration of half the globe. It was the spirit of republican liberty that animated the patriot in the cabinet, and supported the American soldier under all his sufferings in the field, during a long and arduous war. It is the same patriotic spirit which has convened the members of our federal convention, at the expense of private ease and fortune, to supply the defects of our confederation—to prop the tottering fabric of our union, and to lay the foundations of national safety and happiness—Illustrious senate, to you your country looks with anxious expectation—on your decisions she rests—

convinced that men who cut the cords of foreign legislation are competent to framing a system of government which will embrace all interests, call forth our resources, and establish our credit:—But in every plan for improvement or reformation, may an attachment to the principles of our present government be the characteristic of an American, and may every proposition to add kingly power to our federal system be regarded as treason to the liberties of our country.

Another advantage derived from our independence consists in the expansion it has given the human mind, and the new fields it has opened for enquiry, especially on the interesting subjects of government. While only a third part of legislation was in our hands, it is not a subject of wonder that we were deficient in many of its principles; but since all the powers of government have devolved upon us, how many proofs of knowledge have been given in this science—witness the wisdom and energy of many of our constitutions, and witness the literary productions of those illustrious civilians, Jefferson and Adams, whose works are not only calculated to instruct their countrymen, but to enlighten Europe and posterity in the great science of social and political happiness;—nor have our studies and enquiries since the declaration of independence been confined to government: science has flourished in all its branches—the American historian records the events of our revolution with classical elegance, and her poets celebrate in all the harmony of verse the glorious achievements of her sons.

By a separation from Britain we have increased our resources for knowledge:—Witness the numerous colleges, academies and literary societies that have been established since the peace throughout the union. These institutions, so fruitful of



public and private happiness, have arisen entirely from a conviction that knowledge is essential to the preservation of a republican form of government.

Our separation from Great Britain has extended the empire of humanity: no longer shall the wretched African be torn from his peaceful habitation, to fertilize with his tears the soil of a people professing themselves advocates for universal freedom—the time is not far distant when our sister States, in imitation of our example, shall change their vassals into subjects.

Our national independence has opened the avenues of commerce with every part of the world, and thereby not only lessened the price of our imports, but added to the value of our products. Nor is this the only advantage we have derived from the extension of our trade: It was not less the policy than the interest of Britain to instil into our minds national prejudices, and to teach us to regard all mankind, except Englishmen, as our enemies; but happily this prejudice is removed, and we now view the whole human race as members of one great and extensive family, however much they may be distinguished from us by the circumstances of distance, colour, or religion. The Frenchman and the American (till lately considered hereditary enemies) now embrace each other as children of the same father—the European catholic and the American protestant review with equal horror the times when their ancestors embued their hands in each others blood, and now join to cancel the remembrance of them in mutual acts of charity and benevolence. Nor has this intercourse been restricted to Europe: the inhabitants of China, Bengal, and the United States, have met together on the banks of India; and by the influence of commerce, have added the

ties of interest to the obligations of universal benevolence.

Another, and a principal advantage of our independence, results from the material change it has wrought on the opinions, conduct, and government of the European nations. It was by contemplating our independence that France has become the land of free enquiry and general toleration. Germany, from the same cause, has shaken off an immense load of religious prejudice and bigotry. Spain has caught our spirit of enterprise and innovation; and even Britain herself has been taught, by our successful struggle, to relax in her system of general subjugation; hence Ireland enjoys what she had long demanded in vain—an exercise of her natural rights to commerce, liberty, and independence. Prosperious era! happy event! which has softened the rigours of tyranny, and taught even kings to reverse the great laws of justice and equity.

Thus have I endeavoured to point out some of the principal benefits of American independence: but methinks, I am asked, why do we hear of such universal discontents throughout the continent? why does the farmer languish beneath the weight of taxes, and the merchant complain of the decay of trade? why are the hands of our federal government so weak, and our credit and character the sport of foreign nations? these things, however true, do not militate with any proposition I have advanced. Where is the nation that ever became suddenly wise, great and respectable? history answers, none. Greece boasted her Amphiction, her Solon, and Lycurgus, and yet we find her approaches to order less rapid than ours. Rome had a Romulus, to frame her constitution; and yet, while she conquered the world, there subsisted within her walls a civil war. The seditions of the

Gracchi were more sanguinary, and not less threatening, than any we have felt. View Cæsar first defending, and then endeavouring to subvert the constitution of his country. Exult that the leader of our legions had nobler objects in view than a sceptre or a diadem. Though Russia is now a great and happy nation, though she holds in one hand the scourge of the Turk, and the balance of Europe in the other, yet the banks of the Neister and the Larga will witness that her road to empire and order has been slow and difficult. Holland did not, until after forty years struggle, attain to independence; and frequent disorders since, have taught her that national stability is of slow growth. And how often has the British throne shook to its centre, before she arrived at her present situation! Her history is chequered from the conquest by Cæsar, to the present day. One king exiled, another beheaded; now a republic, and then a monarchy; this reign drained of men and treasure by an ambitious prince, smitten with a rage for foreign conquest; the next streaming with the blood of her sons, probed in every vein, by the dagger of domestic faction; the fields of Hastings and of Bosworth lay on the road to her present order. Rebellion has more than once stalked at large through the land; their government has been insulted by a Monmouth, and trampled on by a Cromwell. And shall we, who have but just become a nation, expect to meet with nothing but tranquility and order? To establish a new form of government, to eradicate ancient prejudices, to remove the effects of a war, began with the sanctions of authority, and conducted chiefly by voluntary association, and to unite opinions and habits with new situations, must be the work of time. Our constitutions were made upon

the spur of the occasion, with a bayonet at our breasts, and in the infancy of our knowledge of government and its principles; it is not, therefore, matter of surprise that they are not more perfect, or more generally accommodated to the temper of our citizens. The distresses, of which we complain, are wholly artificial; an anti-republican passion for foreign luxuries has exhausted our country of its gold and silver; a rage for paper money has checked credit, locked up the remains of our specie, substituted speculation for labour, and taught us to prey upon one another. The seed of independence, like many other seeds, may, for a while, disappear; but it will yet spring and flourish with strength and beauty: like the venerable oak, it may probably require centuries to grow, in order to be centuries in flourishing, and centuries in decaying. How fallen would be the character we have acquired in the establishment of our liberties, if we discover inability to form a suitable government to preserve them? Is the science of government so difficult, that we have not men among us, capable of unfolding its mysteries, and binding our states together by mutual interests and obligations? or is knowledge in legislation confined to kings and ministers? There was a time when these questions would have kindled rage and resentment in every American bosom.

Let us for a moment compare the present situation of America with what it was in 1775: she was then without force, without union, without an ally, and Great Britain was her enemy; and yet, under all these disadvantages, she rose to glory and independence. At present, she is at peace with the whole world; France, the most powerful nation in Europe, is her faithful ally; she is in possession of eleven years experience in government; she is united in her

jects; has, almost, no army to maintain, no enemy to oppose; who, then, but a willing infidel, can doubt her future greatness? But our present situation is still more strongly contrasted by the gloom of 1779—distracted in our councils, our money hastening to extinction, our army on the eve of dissolution, and a powerful enemy in the bowels of our country; yet we surmounted these difficulties, and triumphed in the peace of 1783. There are clouds and storms in the political as well as the natural hemisphere; to weak and timid minds only are they big with terror; the true politician views them as the means of purifying the political atmosphere, and promoting the growth and stability of government. These, gentlemen of the society, are, I am sure, your sentiments. It was to perpetuate the remembrance of events immediately connected with the day, of which this is the anniversary, that we united; it is to transmit to posterity the principles of that day we continue our association; and although we have sheathed our swords, and gone back to the pursuits of private life, it remains for us to remember, that the same exertions may be necessary to defend and preserve, which were so successfully employed in establishing our independence and peace; and that as soldiers of a republic, our work is incomplete, while national dangers exist on any quarter. In casting my eye back upon the scenes of danger and distress out of which our society grew, I am insensibly led to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of such as sealed their attachment to the liberties of our country with their lives. Though, scattered from the plains of Abraham to the sands of Georgia, no monument be raised to point their reliques to the passing stranger, yet laurels shall bloom around their graves, and while gratitude or justice shall rule the remem-

brance of human action, the brilliant story of their fame will retain its lustre, and pass to posterity in the full splendor of glory.

To detail their several merits, would exhaust eulogium, and far transcends my powers of panegyric. It will not, however, be deemed a trespass on your indulgence, should I offer the tribute of acknowledgment to an individual, whose worth will for ever endear his memory to our country. This is not the partial praise of professional predilection; it is a sentiment to which, I am persuaded, my audience will grant a grateful assent, when informed that it refers to that distinguished citizen and soldier, general Greene.

Great in the beneficent arts of peace, he was the hope of his country, and unsurpassed in the active operations of war, he has been justly styled, “her sword; and the keen avenger of her wrongs.” With a mind to counsel, and an arm to execute the greatest purposes of public determination, he united a heart, honest in all its intentions, and firmly prepared to sustain the rudest reverse of fortune.

When disciplined valour had defeated our troops, and desolation marched in the train of war—when the sword had thinned our broken ranks, and dismay distracted the civil authority—when conquest and confidence were opposed to defeat and despondency—in this dark crisis of southern disaster, was he called on to stem the torrent of victory, and avert the horrors of impending subjugation.

With prompt obedience to the orders of his illustrious chief, he hastens to execute the duties of his appointment, and at the head of an enfeebled, though gallant army, he displays a conduct consummate in all its objects; supported by a courage ardent as the sword he drew, removing alarm and restoring confidence, he grafts an

emboldened militia on the stump of that war-wasted corps, whose bravery, under every pressure of adverse fortune, had firmly upheld the standard of freedom; with these, he advanced to meet an enemy elate with conquest, and assured of success.

Discipline having resumed its station in our ranks, the astonished Briton is taught to respect the foe he so lately despised, and his predatory bands, retrained to operations of collective force, no longer desolate our guarded fields.

The exiled inhabitants return to their deserted dwellings, and separated kindred again enjoy the blissful society of domestic peace. The anxious father revisits his distressed family, and, permitted in quiet to make provision for their support, he returns with zeal and ardour to the service of his country; private happiness is improved into general welfare; the husbandman, assured of the advantages which must result from the guidance of such a leader, mingles with alacrity in the ranks of war, and braves with ardour, every danger of the field; vigilance increases to enterprize, and resistance is roused to retaliation; invasion is changed in its course, and rushes with impetuous recoil in an opposite direction; detachments captured, and garrisons reduced, announce its rapid approach, and urge retreat to the Briton, as the last refuge from its fury; impressed with the conviction of Eutaw, he seeks shelter within his entrenchments, nor longer dares an opposition in the field. Alike attentive to the duties of citizenship, as ardent in the accomplishment of his military pursuits, the gallant Greene devotes his talents and his leisure to the restoration of tranquility, and the maintenance of civil privilege; his conquering troops indulge not in excess, nor riot in the peasant's toil; contented to share with their chief in the scanty allow-

ance of the camp, victory brings no other benefit to them than the reflection, that they had done their duty. Such, my fellow citizens, was the hero, whose actions will be admired while patriotism and military worth preserve their rank in human estimation, and whose services entitle him to the eternal gratitude of America. If such was the chief, appointed to conduct the momentous duties of that dangerous department, how much to be admired is that wisdom, whose early penetration directed to the choice, and whose friendship maintained, through every change of fortune, an unshaken affection and esteem! The presence of that great character forbids encomium, and the remembrance of his merit is too deeply engraven ever to be effaced.

Placing, then, a proper value on the blessings which the efforts of such illustrious citizens have procured, our counsellors have not planned the happiness of their country without effect, nor have the martyrs of freedom bled in vain. No, my fellow citizens, from their ashes, enriched by their blood, the tree of liberty shall yet grow and flourish among us. Methinks I already see a stately fabric of a free and vigorous government rising out of the wisdom of the federal convention. I behold order and contentment pervading every part of the united states; our forests falling before the hand of labour; our fields doubling their increase, from the effects of well-directed industry; our villages enlivened by useful manufactures, and our citizens thriving under foreign and domestic commerce. I behold millions of freemen, covering the shores of our rivers and lakes with all the arts and enjoyments of civilized life, and on the anniversary of this day, 1887, shouting forth the praises of the heroes and patriots, who, in 1776, secured and extended to them all their happiness.

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*An address delivered in the young ladies' academy, at Philadelphia, on February 8th, 1787, at the close of a public examination. By the rev. Samuel Magaw, D. D. rector of St. Paul's church, and vice-provost of the university of Pennsylvania.—Published by desire of the visitors of said academy.*

HAVING stepped in on this agreeable occasion, may I be permitted to yield, for a few moments, to the impulse which I feel upon my mind? It is the impulse of complacency, combined with a desire to follow you, honoured citizens, in bearing the testimony due to this rising institution.

Education is unquestionably, a matter of very great importance in human society. It is the groundwork on which the temple of happiness may rise—well proportioned, beautiful, and lasting.

A judicious and liberal care, however, is requisite, with regard to the objects of education; the time of life most proper for it; and the manner in which it ought to be conducted.

I beg leave to hazard a few thoughts, which have, chiefly, a relation to the first particular.

Here, we have, generally, been deficient, and too confined. It is easy to discern, in what respect.—Schools and academies there are, intended for training up boys, and young gentlemen, in sundry branches of useful learning: but female instruction hath been left, as it were, to chance; or conducted very little farther than through the lowest forms. As if of trivial moment, no great deal hath been said about it; and still less accomplished. Seldom hath it called forth more than some scattered vague remarks, and ineffective, spiritless endeavours.

It merits more attention than this.

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An inspired writer, expressing the felicity of having well instructed sons, by the beautiful metaphor of “plants grown up in their youth;” connects therewith, the elegance and grace of “our daughters, polished after the similitude of a palace.”

That female minds are capable of great improvement, will certainly be allowed. The benefit and satisfaction that must arise from such improvement, are obvious to all. There is but little reasoning then necessary to shew, that this amiable part of our charge had best receive tuition in seminaries appropriated to themselves. In these, their innocence and delicacy can more easily be protected; their conversation, manners, and address more perfectly attended to; and each congenial circumstance made to operate in leading them to excellence.

I am aware of the objections that have been made against public seminaries for young ladies. Vanity and vice, it is said, are apt to be introduced by some, where there is a great number, and the contagion soon spreads. Private tuition, it is alleged, is the most proper for pupils of this sex.

It is possible there may be instances to countenance this objection: yet it holds not true, indiscriminately. Indeed, when daughters are sent from home, to board—the tender guidance of a sensible mother being in a manner suspended, and the father's guardianship quite ceasing for a time—there is some room for apprehending danger, notwithstanding all the caution that can be exercised. But the seminaries which we have in our view, are less exposed to hazards of this sort. The young persons, upon our plan, are not to be thrown at a distance from the paternal eye, nor separated from a mother's sweet attentions. We deem both essential, where they can be enjoyed: and neither are superseded in the least. I suppose also these seminaries to be

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well constituted, and managed with prudence and ability.

As to private tuition, I allow it all the reasonable praise its advocates could desire. But, considering circumstances in general—and that the literary instruction of females must be conducted almost in the same way with that of boys; the private method will be often found impracticable, and very seldom competent, of itself, to the end proposed.

In few places—almost in none, till lately—hath there been any respectable institution for the express purpose of educating young ladies. There hath not been one, holding forth a system that can be thoroughly approved; or carrying into practice ideas which comport with the dignity of the object. There might be many such: and they would, in every possible view, deserve the attention and encouragement of all who wish well to the prosperity of their country;—we may say, to the felicity of the world.

Our object here is not excessive refinement, or deep erudition; but such culture, in the first instance, as no woman, whatever her condition and expectations are, can conveniently be without. And then, such farther progress as the taste and fortunes of some may require.

It is by no means necessary that every woman should have a classical education, even with respect to her own tongue; nor that any should proceed in one literary branch, or another, farther than what prudence and economy recommend. But, unquestionably, all, of every description, should learn to read correctly. All should be taught to write tolerably well. All should be instructed to manage common numbers, and to keep plain accounts. All should be formed to the habits of obedience, and a placid graceful attention to whatever duty they may be concerned in.

Now, in the institutions which I wish may be patronized, these essential parts at least, of female education, will become more generally understood, than they were formerly. Almost every one may rise to a degree of consideration herein, that people had scarcely any conception of before.

In such institutions, more effectually than any where else, may be acquired an accurate acquaintance with the vernacular language—its elements, orthography, idioms, and construction: the result of which will be, a copiousness—dignity—force—and beauty, in writing, as well as in conversation, which most women are certainly as capable of, as the men; but, for want of opportunity, so few of either sex attain.

Besides reading with propriety and grace, that charming accomplishment—how generally would they write a beautiful, easy hand, and gain facility in arithmetic!—How common would it be, to understand the use of the globes—the most pleasing and necessary parts of geography and history;—drawing—music—psalmody:—while many, whose genius, and situation in life, might render it advisable, would, at a proper season, make advances in the belles lettres; and others reach, with success, after the garland of philosophy.

—And all along, let the fair pupil's range in the field of learning, be either more, or less extensive—she will be taught, above all things, to have this truth in constant view, that the knowledge of her Creator is wisdom pre-eminent; and the ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit, are the first-rate accomplishments under heaven.

Now, any expostulations that might be used on account of past omissions—or the reasonings that might be adduced by one speaking on this subject, are superseded, I trust,

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in Philadelphia, by the actual establishment of an academy, such as meets our ideas, and accords with our wishes—an academy, which, from its having the countenance of so many respectable characters—I readily suppose, will enlarge its system yet farther, and spread extensively its goodly influences.

Here then I hold; sensible that it is unnecessary in this place, to dwell longer on the consideration first intimated: or even to touch, a moment, on the other two particulars, “the time of life most proper for education;” and “the manner of conducting it;” circumstances, which the good sense of the parents, whose daughters seek instruction early within these walls—the skill of the principal, and the attention of the visitors, amply provide for, and insure in the manner that every well-informed mind would desire.

All that I have to do on these topics, is, with cordiality, to congratulate the respectable parents and guardians of these amiable young persons; and you, worthy sir\*, under whose special care they are placed, and every one who assists you in this excellent work, particularly the gentleman† to whom this city is greatly indebted, for his instructions in that delightful art, which heightens so much the beauty of social worship.

Sirs! may the proficiency of this your happy charge, in learning, and in “whatsoever things are lovely,” amply fulfil your wishes, and reward your pains!

*“Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,*

*To teach the fair idea how to shoot;  
To breathe th’ enlivening spirit, and to fix*

*The gen’rous purpose in the glowing breast.”*

NOTES.

\* Mr. Brown.

† Mr. Adgate.

And now, young ladies! as far as you have proceeded, you have acquitted yourselves well. The smile of general approbation is yours: and the particular, well-earned, sweet regards of those with whom you are, each, more intimately connected, are yours.

We think we have indubitable proofs, in the specimens you have already given, of your abilities, and your delight in learning. A union like this promises much future excellence. You will consider duly your present advantages, and keep in constant view what is expected of you.

To rise to eminence, requires continued, as well as early, diligence.

While you frequent this seminary, let it be with a cheerful elevated endeavour to gain as much improvement as possible: and let your end in acquiring knowledge, be, that you may be eminently good, and eminently useful.

You will be amiably respectful to your instructors: peculiarly decent and friendly to one another; perfectly inoffensive, courteous, and obliging to all. The law of kindness must dwell upon your tongues. Good will, and peace, and humbleness of mind, must every where attend you.

Thus growing in wisdom, as you grow in stature, and possessing those qualities which concentrate in worth and loveliness, you will become (what I look upon to be but very little lower than the angels) sensible, virtuous, sweet-tempered women.

But, highly esteemed daughters! there is a consideration which I have, all along, supposed to accompany your improvements, and to shed around them glory, without which, indeed, they would all be unprofitable; I mean, that in the light and love of God alone, your nature can be happy.

I barely subjoin a thought in rela-

tion to this; it may give a better seasoning to the sentiments preceding.

That light and love must come to you, and to us all, thro' the Son of God. He is the great master, whose school you must especially attend. In the midst of all your studies, and in all your ways, be learning of him. He gives you redemption. He reconciles you to his Father. He teaches you to be pure, unblameable, and perfect. He will open a heaven of serenity within you; restoring all the honours of innocence, and the rights of immortality.



*New method of placing a meridian mark, in a letter to the rev. dr. Erving, provost of the university of Pennsylvania. By David Rittenhouse, Esq.*

Dear sir,

SOME time ago I mentioned to you a new invention I had for fixing a meridian mark for my observatory. This I have since executed, and as it answers perfectly well, I shall give you a particular description of it.

When my observatory was first erected, I placed a meridian mark to the northward, at the distance of about 1200 feet, my view to the south being too much confined by adjacent buildings, and that to the north was not distant enough to have the mark free from a sensible parallax. But last summer a new brick house was built directly north of the observatory, and much too nigh for distant vision with the transit instrument. Now, though a fixed mark is not absolutely necessary where you have a good transit instrument, the position of which may be examined and accurately corrected, if necessary, every fair day, by the passage of the

pole star above and below the pole, it is nevertheless very convenient, saves much trouble, and may sometimes prevent mistakes. We have an instance in the observations of the astronomer royal at Greenwich. His mark being taken down at repairing the building to which it was secured, the transit instrument was accidentally thrown out of its true position, and the observations with it were continued for a considerable time before the error was detected. My meridian mark being thus rendered useless, I contrived several other methods of supplying its place, all of which were, on sufficient deliberation, rejected for the following.

I fastened the object glass of a thirty-six feet telescope, firmly, to the wall which supports the transit instrument, opposite to and as near as convenient to the object glass of the transit, when brought to a horizontal situation. In the focus of the thirty-six feet object glass, I screwed fast a piece of brass to a block of marble, supported by a brick pillar built on a good foundation, for this purpose, in my garden. On this piece of brass are several black concentric circles; the rest of the plate is silvered. The diverging rays of light which proceed from every point in these circles, after passing through the thirty-six feet glass, become parallel, and entering the transit instrument, an image of the plate and its circles is formed in the same place where the images of stars or the most distant objects are formed. The circles are, therefore, distinctly seen through the transit, and being placed in the same meridian with the centre of the thirty-six feet glass, the innermost circle, about the size of a brevier o, serves for a meridian mark, to the centre whereof the cross hair of the transit, may be nicely adjusted.

This mark is in several respects preferable to one placed in the common way. It is entirely free from



parallax, which the other cannot be, unless placed at a very great distance, when glasses of great magnifying powers are used. It is not sensibly affected by the undulation of the air, which very often renders it impossible to set the transit accurately to a distant mark. And it can be illuminated at night without difficulty, should the suspicion of any accident to the transit make it necessary. But it has likewise one disadvantage.—Should the pillar, in setting, carry the mark a little to the east or west, the error will be greater in proportion to its nearness.

I am, dear sir, your humble servant,

DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

P. S. The great improvement of object glasses, by Dolland, has enabled us to apply eye glasses of so short a focus, that it is difficult to find any substance proper for the cross hairs of fixed instruments. For some years past, I have used a single filament of silk, without knowing that the same was made use of by the European astronomers, as I have lately found it is by Mr. Herschell. But this substance, though far better than wires or hairs of any kind, is still much too coarse for some observations. A single filament of silk will totally obscure a small star, and that for several seconds of time, if the star be near the pole. I have lately with no small difficulty, placed the thread of a spider in some of my instruments; it has a beautiful effect; it is not one tenth of the size of the thread of the silk-worm, and is rounder and more evenly of a thickness. I have hitherto found no inconvenience from the use of it, and believe it will be lasting, it being more than four months since I first put it in my transit telescope, and it continues fully extended, and free from knots or particles of dust.

*Extract of a letter from the rev. Jeremy Belknap, containing observations on the aurora borealis.*

Dover, (N. H.) March 31, 1783.

DID you ever, in observing the aurora borealis, perceive a sound? I own, I once looked on the idea as frivolous and chimerical, having heard it at first from persons whose credulity, I supposed, exceeded their judgment; but, from hearing it repeatedly, and from some others whom I thought judicious and curious, I began to entertain an opinion in favour of it. I was strengthened in this opinion about two years ago, by listening with attention to the flashing of a luminous arch, which appeared in a calm frosty night, when I thought I heard a faint rustling noise, like the brushing of silk. Last Saturday evening I had full auricular demonstration of the reality of this phenomenon. About ten o'clock the hemisphere was all in a glow; the vapours ascended from all points, and met in a central one in the zenith. All the difference between the south and north part of the heavens, was, that the vapour did not begin to ascend so near the horizon in the south as in the north. There had been a small shower, with a few thunder claps, and a bright rainbow in the afternoon; and there was a gentle western breeze in the evening, which came in flaws, with intervals of two or three minutes. In these intervals I could plainly perceive the rustling noise, which was easily distinguishable from the sound of the wind, and could not be heard till the flaw had subsided. The flashing of the vapour was extremely quick; whether accelerated by the wind I cannot say; but from that quarter where the greatest quantity of the vapour seemed to be in motion, the sound was plainest; and this, during my observation, was the eastern.

The scene lasted about half an hour, though the whole night was as light as when the moon is in the quarters.



*Letter from J. Madison, esq. to D. Rittenbouse, esq. containing experiments and observations upon what are commonly called the sweet springs, in Virginia.*

THESE waters rise on the north side of a large mountain, at the foot of it, called the sweet spring mountain, in the county of Botetourt. The south side is covered with stones of an ocreous appearance. In many places iron ore may be found; but on the north, the mountain is fertile, covered with a rich mould, at least near the spring. The remarkable efficacy of these waters, in many disorders, especially, it is said, in consumptive complaints, first induced me to attempt their analysis. Such experiments as I had time and opportunity to make, I shall faithfully relate, and leave it to others, better qualified than myself, to judge of their merits.

Experiment 1. Having plunged a very sensible mercurial thermometer in the spring, it stood at  $73^{\circ}$ . The temperature of air was about  $69^{\circ}$ .

2. A good hydrometer sunk one twentieth of an inch deeper in common mountain water, than in the spring.

3. Nut galls mixed with the water in a wine-glass, struck a palish brown, which shewed that there was little or no iron in it.

4. Violets mixed with the water in a wine-glass, turned it, in a short time, of a reddish colour. This was a proof that the waters contained some kind of acid.

5. Having made a solution of silver in the nitrous acid, and mixed a little of it with the water, it immediately became milky, and a white pulvurent precipitate ensued. This experiment shewed by the whiteness of the precipitate, that the waters contained nothing sulphureous, and by the pulvurency of the precipitate, that the acid contained in the waters was vitriolic.

6. A solution of lead in the nitrous acid being mixed with the water, it became somewhat milky, and a white precipitate was observed. This experiment also shews, that the waters contain an acid, most probably the vitriolic, and also that they contain calcareous earth. Soap is not readily miscible with them.

7. A solution of saccharum saturni in the nitrous acid being made, and lines marked upon paper with it, and placed over the water, the lines retained their former colour. This experiment also shews that the water contains nothing sulphureous.

8. Having poured a little of the spirit of salt into the water, after some time a coloured precipitate was observed; but as the waters did not strike a green or blue colour, it shewed that there was no copper in them.

9. A solution of vitriol of copper mixed with the water, produced a thick, green, curdly appearance, but did not become bluer. This experiment shewed that there was no vol. alkali contained in them.

10. The vitriolic acid mixed with the water, suddenly effervesced, and produced a heat which raised the thermometer from  $75$  to  $83$ , by applying the bulb to the outside of the glass.

11. As the spring is continually

discharging large bubbles of air, which rising from the bottom break upon the surface of the water, I was desirous of making some experiments upon the air, in order to determine whether the acidity of the water might not be owing to it; and also to determine the nature of the air, whether fixed or not. Having, therefore, caught a quantity of the air in a decanter, I communicated a part of it to an equal bulk of pure mountain water, and after agitating them for some time, gave it to several to taste; who agreed that it had the taste of the spring water. Upon a second trial, this experiment did not succeed. I had not an opportunity of trying the nature of the air by means of chalk-water, and was prevented from prosecuting any further enquiries into the nature of these celebrated waters, by a sudden alarm, to which the frontiers were then continually exposed.

These waters have been falsely called sweet; for their taste is evidently acidulous. The experiments also shew that they contain an acid. Their taste resembles exactly that of waters artificially impregnated with fixed air, extricated from chalk, by means of the vitriolic acid, and I conceive must be nearly the same with the true Pyrmont water. They have little or no smell, do not form any incrustation, nor do they leave a deposit upon standing many hours. Upon bathing in the morning, the skin has a soapy kind of feel. This was not observed in the evening.

There is, near this spring, another, a very strong chalybeate.

I am, with great regard, yours,

J. MADISON.

## On musical pretenders.

To the editor.

*Timotheus, with his breathing flute or  
sounding lyre,  
Could swell the soul to rage, or kindle  
soft desire.*

Sir,

I WAS led the other day by a friend to a concert of music, in expectation of being enraptured, as he was pleased to call it, by the performance of many excellent masters. I am indeed a lover of music, but unhappily no connoisseur; I imagined I should be entertained with some of the works of Corelli, Handel, Geminiani, or the like; but alas, sir, after a good old overture which I thought tolerably well performed, when my expectations were raised very high, up starts Signor Sombodini (a name Italianized, which I do not remember) to play a solo on the violoncello, which used to be known by the name of a bass-fiddle not half a century ago: he had indeed one part of Timotheus's skill;—he did not a little enrage many besides me, by producing some of his own composition, which, after Handel's, was nearly similar to a low farce after a fine tragedy; his performance, which a fat gentlewoman, who sat next to me, told me, I should call his *execution*, was very good; but I never knew, till some of the connoisseurs informed me, that music was only intended for vile scrapers to make minced meat of—to shew—what? why truly, their *execution*:—I had almost said, would they were all *executed*, connoisseurs and all. In the name of wonder, have we not solos of Corelli, Geminiani, and many other great masters, that every fiddler must be perking his own wretched compositions in our face? A gentleman was observing, that on all bass instruments the movements ought to be slow and solemn, and that they ne-

ver were intended for jigs, &c. to which a personage of a very formal aspect made answer, in a kind of German English, "Sir, you know very little about the matter; that might be the case in Corelli's time, but now we have learned better things: in his time it was thought wonderful if a performer on the violin could reach E in alt (I think that was the expression) but now we make nothing of going close up to the bridge." I did not doubt but the person must be a very great performer, who knew so much better than Corelli, and being told that he was immediately to give a specimen, I was all expectation; when behold mynheer mounted the rostrum, or what else you please to call it, and indeed he did get up to the bridge, as he had promised: but (would you believe it?) he could not find the way down again, till during a great applause, raised by some of his admirers, he wisely threw himself down head-long; and upon my word I wished he had broke his neck—I mean musically, not mischievously—for he only intended to shew his own execution.

I always understood, till lately, that music, I mean composition, was a very difficult affair; but was greatly surprised to find, that every spark that has just learned the gamut on the fiddle or German flute, composes his own solos, trios, &c. &c. with the greatest facility; and I do not doubt can get up to the bridge much better than Corelli ever could, and come down again, like mynheer, in a masterly manner.

I am, sir,

yours, &c.

TIMOTHY PHRAM.

Philadelphia, May 6, 1787.

*An address of his excellency governor Trumbull, to the general assembly and the freemen of the state of Connecticut, with the resolution of the legislature, in consequence thereof.*

*To the honorable the council and house of representatives, in general court assembled, October 1783.*

Gentlemen,

A Few days will bring me to the anniversary of my birth; seventy three years of my life will then be completed; and next May, fifty one years will have passed, since I was first honoured with the confidence of the people in a public character. During this period, in different capacities, it has been my lot to be called to public service, almost without interruption. Fourteen years I have had the honour to fill the chief seat of government. With what carefulness, with what zeal and attention to your welfare, I have discharged the duties of my several stations, some few of you, of equal age with myself, can witness for me from the beginning. During the last period, none of you are ignorant of the manner in which my public life has been occupied!—the watchful cares and solitudes of an eight years distressing and unusual war, have also fallen to my share, and have employed many anxious moments of my latest time; which have been cheerfully devoted to the welfare of my country. Happy am I to find, that all these cares, anxieties, and solitudes are amply compensated by the noble prospect which now opens to my fellow citizens, of a happy establishment (if we are but wise to improve the precious opportunity) in peace, tranquility, and national independence. With sincere and lively gratitude to Almighty God, our great protector and deliverer, and with most hearty con-

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gratulations to all our citizens, I felicitate you, gentlemen, the other freemen, and all the good people of the state, in this glorious prospect.

Impressed with these sentiments of gratitude and felicitation—reviewing the long course of years, in which, through various events, I have had the pleasure to serve the state—contemplating, with pleasing wonder and satisfaction, at the close of an arduous contest, the noble and enlarged scenes, which now present themselves to my country's view—and reflecting, at the same time, on my advanced stage of life—a life, worn out almost in the constant duties of office, I think it my duty to retire from the busy concerns of public affairs: that at the evening of my days, I may sweeten their decline, by devoting myself with less avocation, and more attention, to the duties of religion, the service of my God, and preparation for a future and happier state of existence—in which pleasing employment, I shall not cease to remember my country, and to make it my ardent prayer, that heaven will not fail to bless her with its choicest favours.

At this auspicious moment, therefore, of my country's happiness—when she has just reached the goal of her wishes, and obtained the object, for which she has so long contended, and so nobly struggled, I have to request the favour from you, gentlemen, and through you, from all the freemen of the state, that after May next, I may be excused from any further service in public life, and that, from this time, I may be no longer considered as an object of your suffrages for any public employment in the state. The reasonableness of my request, I am persuaded, will be questioned by no one. The length of time I have devoted to their service, with my declining state of vigour and activity, will, I please myself, form for me, a sufficient and

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unfailing excuse with my fellow citizens.

At this parting address, you will suffer me, gentlemen, to thank you, and all the worthy members of preceding assemblies, with whom I have had the honour to act, for all that assistance, council, aid, and support, which I have ever experienced during my administration in government; and in the warmth of gratitude, to assure you, that, till my latest moments, all your kindness to me shall be remembered:—and that my constant prayer shall be employed with heaven, to invoke the divine guidance and direction in your future councils and government.

Age and experience dictate to me—and the zeal with which I have been known to serve the public through a long course of years, will, I trust, recommend to the attention of the people, some few thoughts which I shall offer to their consideration on this occasion, as my last advisory legacy.

I would in the first place, intreat my countrymen, as they value their own internal welfare and the good of posterity, that they maintain inviolate, by a strict adherence to its original principles, the happy constitution under which we have so long subsisted as a corporation; that for the purposes of national happiness and glory, they will support and strengthen the federal union by every constitutional means in their power. The existence of a congress, vested with powers competent to the great national purposes for which that body was instituted, is essential to our national security, establishment and independence. Whether congress is already vested with such powers, is a question, worthy, in my opinion, of the most serious, candid and dispassionate consideration of this legislature, and those of all the other confederated states. For my own part, I do not hesitate to pronounce, that in

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my opinion, that body is not possessed of those powers which are fully adequate to the purposes of our general sovereignty; nor competent to that energy and exertion of government, which are absolutely necessary to the management and direction of the general weal; or the fulfilment of our own expectations. This defect in our federal constitution, I have already lamented as the cause of many inconveniencies which we have experienced; and unless wisely remedied, will, I foresee, be productive of evils, disastrous, if not fatal, to our future union and confederation. In my idea, a congress invested with full and sufficient authorities, is as absolutely necessary for the great purposes of our confederated union, as your legislature is for the support of internal order, regulation and government, in the state. Both bodies should be entrusted with powers fully sufficient to answer the design of their several institutions. Their powers should be distinct; they should be clearly defined, ascertained and understood. They should be carefully adhered to; they should be watched over with a wakeful and distinguishing attention of the people. But this watchfulness is far different from that excess of jealousy, which, from a mistaken fear of abuse, withholds the necessary powers, and denies the means which are essential to the end expected. Just as ridiculous is this latter disposition, as would be the practice of a farmer, who should deprive his labouring man of the tools necessary for his business, lest he should hurt himself, or injure his employer, and yet expects his work to be accomplished. This kind of excessive jealousy is, in my view, too prevalent at this day; and will, I fear, if not abated, prove a principal means of preventing the enjoyment of our national independence and glory, in that extent and perfection, which the aspect of our

affairs (were we to be wise) so pleasingly promises to us. My countrymen! suffer me to ask, who are objects of this jealousy? who, my fellow citizens, are the men we have to fear? not strangers, who have no connection with our welfare?—no!—they are the men of our own choice, from among ourselves;—a choice (if we are faithful to ourselves) dictated by the most perfect freedom of election; and that election repeated as often as you can wish, or is consistent with the good of the people. They are our brethren—acting for themselves as well as for us—and sharers with us in all the general burdens and benefits. They are men, who from interest, affection and every social tie, have the same attachment to our constitution and government as ourselves:—why, therefore, should we fear them, with this unreasonable jealousy?—In our present temper of mind, are we not rather to fear ourselves? to fear the propriety of our own elections? or rather to fear, that from this excess of jealousy and mistrust, each one, cautious of his neighbour's love of power, and fearing lest if he be trusted, he would misuse it, we shall lose all confidence and government, and every thing tend to anarchy and confusion? from whose horrid womb, should we plunge into it, will spring a government, that may justly make us all to tremble.

I would also beg, that, for the support of national faith and honour, as well as domestic tranquility, they would pay the strictest attention to all the sacred rules of justice and equity, by a faithful observance and fulfilment of all public as well as private engagements. Public expenses are unavoidable;—and those of the late war, although they fall short of what might have been expected, when compared with the magnitude of the object for which we have con-

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tended, the length of the contest, with our unprepared situation and peculiarity of circumstances, yet could not fail to be great;—but great as they may appear to be, when, for the defence of our invaluable rights and liberties, the support of our government, and our national existence, they have been incurred and allowed by those to whom, by your own choice, you have delegated the power, and assigned the duty, of watching over the common weal, and guarding your interests, their public engagements are as binding on the people, as your own private contracts; and are to be discharged with the same good faith and punctuality.

I most earnestly request my fellow citizens, that they revere and practice virtue in all its lovely forms:—this being the surest and best establishment of national as well as private felicity and prosperity. That, dismissing as well all local and confined prejudices, as unreasonable and excessive jealousies and suspicions, they study peace and harmony with each other, and with the several parts of the confederated republic—That they pay an orderly and respectful regard to the laws and regulations of government; and that, making a judicious use of that freedom and frequency of election, which is the great security and palladium of their rights, they will place confidence in their public officers, and submit their public concerns, with cheerfulness and readiness, to the decisions and determinations of congress and their own legislature; whose collected and united wisdom, the people will find to be a much more sure dependance, than the uncertain voice of popular clamour, which, most frequently, is excited and blown about by the artful and designing part of the community, to effect particular, and, often times, sinister purposes. At such times, the

steady good sense of the virtuous public, wisely exercised in a judicious choice of their representatives, and a punctual observance of their collected counsels, is the surest guide to national interest, happiness and security.

Finally, my fellow citizens! I exhort you to love one another; let each one study the good of his neighbour and of the community, as his own:—hate strifes, contentions, jealousies, envy, avarice and every evil work, and ground yourselves in this faithful and sure axiom, that virtue exalteth a nation, but that sin and evil workings are the destruction of a people.

I commend you, gentlemen, and the good people of the state, with earnestness and ardour, to the blessing and protection, the counsel and direction of the great counsellor and director; whose wisdom and power is sufficient to establish you as a great and happy people:—and wishing you the favour of this divine benediction, in my public character—I bid you a long—a happy adieu.

I am, gentlemen,

your most obedient

humble servant,

JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

A true copy, examined by

GEORGE WYLLYS, secretary.

At a general assembly of the governor and company of the state of Connecticut, in America, held at New-haven, on the second Thursday of October, A. D. 1783.

**W**HEREAS his excellency Jonathan Trumbull, esquire, governor and commander in chief in and over the state of Connecticut, has signified in an address to the general assembly, to be communicated to their constituents, his desire that he might not, considering his advanced age, be considered by the

freemen of this state, as an object of their choice, at the next general election, as the governor has declared his wish to retire, after the expiration of his present appointment, from the cares and business of government.

Resolved by this assembly, that they consider it as their duty in behalf of their constituents, to express, in terms of the most sincere gratitude, their highest respect for his excellency governor Trumbull, for the great and eminent services which he has rendered this state during his long and prosperous administration: more especially for that display of wisdom, justice, fortitude, and magnanimity, joined with the most unremitting attention and perseverance which he has manifested during the late successful, though distressing, war, which must place the chief magistrate of this state in the rank of those great and worthy patriots, who have eminently distinguished themselves as the defenders of the rights of mankind.

And that this assembly consider it as a most gracious dispensation of divine providence, that a life of so much usefulness has been prolonged to such an advanced age, with an unimpaired vigour and activity of mind.

But if the freemen of this state shall think proper to comply with his excellency's request, it will be the wish of this assembly, that his successor in office may possess those eminent public and private virtues, which give so much lustre to the character of him who has, in the most honourable manner, so long presided over this state.

It is further resolved, that the secretary present to governor Trumbull, an authenticated copy of this act, as a testimonial of the respect and esteem of the legislature of this state. And the secretary is further directed, that as soon as he shall be furnished with such copy, he cause

the same to be printed, together with this act.

A true copy, examined by  
GEORGE WYLLYS, sec'y.



*Observations on a comet lately discovered; communicated to the American philosophical society—By David Rittenhouse, Esq.*

ON the 21st of January last, John Lukens, esq. informed me that he had discovered a comet, the preceding evening; and, on the evening of the same day, assisted by Mr. Lukens and Mr. Prior, I observed the apparent place of the comet to be in the 15th degree of Pisces, with 16° 6' south latitude. By subsequent observations, I found its motion to be north easterly, with respect to the ecliptic, and that its nearest approach to us had preceded our first observation. It passed the ecliptic on the 31st, in the 25° of Pisces, and February the 17th it was in Pisces 29° with 13° 10' north latitude. This was the last time I saw it, clouds and moonlight having since prevented.

The light of this comet was so very faint that it was impossible to observe it with accuracy, at least without better instruments than I am possessed of, especially as the comet was always involved in day light, moonlight, or the thick atmosphere of the horizon. No pains or attention however were wanting, and from the best observation I could make, I find it passed its perihelion about the 20th of January, its distance from the sun being about  $\frac{1}{10}$  of the sun's distance from us. The place of its ascending node is in the 25th degree of Taurus, and the inclination of its orbit 53°. Its motion is retrograde, that is,

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contrary to the order of the signs. I have still hopes of seeing it in the morning, though its distance is now so very great that it can scarcely be visible to the naked eye.

March, 1784.



*Some account of a motley coloured, or pye negro girl and mulatto boy, exhibited before the American philosophical society, in the month of May, 1784. for their examination: by dr. John Morgan: from the history given of them by their owner, mons. le Vallon, dentist of the king of France, at Gouadaloupe in the West Indies, as follows.*

**A**DELAIDE, the little girl now before the society, is aged two years and a little more than one month, is of a clear black colour, verging to brown, except that she has a white spot bearing some resemblance to an aigrette; the point of which is at the root of the nose, and it rises into the hair, above the forehead, of which it occupies above an inch in width, from the margin to the fontenelle. In this part the colour of the hair is white, and it is curly like the hair of negroes in general, and thicker in that part than on any other part of its head. In the middle of its forehead and on the aigrette, is a large black spot; on the external side next to the temples, about one half of each eye-lid, both upper and under, is black, and the remaining half next to the nose, is white.

The eyes are black and lively; a little to the left and towards the middle of the chin a white spot begins, which is long in proportion to its breadth, but of less magnitude than that of the forehead: it stretches under the chin to the upper part of the throat. The neck, the upper

and under part of the chest, the shoulders, the back, loins, and buttocks to the junction with the thighs, and the pudendum, are of the colour of her face, but the loins and the thicker part of the buttocks are of a deeper black.

The arms from the upper and middle part are white, and interspersed with black spots. There are some smaller and more numerous about her knees than elsewhere.

Upon the large black spots there are also many smaller and blacker, which are very glaring. Many of these spots divide into four, five, and six rays, resembling a star, which are not observed but by a close inspection, and then they are very visible. In several parts, those spots, being of different shades, give an exact picture of lunar eclipses, as they are commonly represented in the books of astronomy. The hands, the middle part of the fore arms, the inferior and middle parts of the legs and feet are black, which have a pretty striking resemblance to gloves and to buskins.

The white that prevails over the breast, and over the belly, arms, and thighs, has a lively appearance. The skin is soft, smooth, and sleek.

Adelaide has fine features; we meet with few negroes of so beautiful a form. In her temper she is cheerful, gay, and sportful, and as tall as children of her age generally are, and hath evidently a very delicate temperament, yet enjoys pretty good health; neither hath she eyes, nor ears, nor any particularity in her features, or external conformation, like what may be seen at the first inspection in those who are called white negroes, whose skin is altogether of a dead white colour, and whose woolly white hair and features resemble those of their negro parents.

From this detail we may remark, that the alteration of the natural colour of Adelaide, takes place over

the same parts of the body, for the most part, as over the body of Maria Sabina, of whom *monf. Buffon* gives an account; and considering it as a well authenticated fact, from all the information that has been received of *Adelaide*, that she had a negro father and negro mother, we are led to believe that the English account under the portrait of Maria Sabina is exact, and not asserted merely for the sake of covering the honour of the mother, and of the society in which she was a slave.

The pyed mulatto boy is named *Jean Pierre*. He is a month younger than *Adelaide*; but from his figure, which is robust, he appears to be six months older. He, as well as *Adelaide*, both belong to *monf. le Vallois*. He was born at *Grandterre*, *Guadaloupe*, of a negro wench named *Carolina*, and of a white man, an European, whose name I did not learn.

A certificate which *monf. le Vallois* has with him, legally authenticated by *monf. Blin*, lieutenant judge, given from under the hand of *monf. des Effart*, king's physician, and *monf. Cumin*, king's surgeon, at *Grandterre*, *Guadaloupe*, attests, that *Adelaide* was born at *Gros Islet*, in *St. Lucia*; that *Bridget*, her mother, is a negro of the *Ibo* nation, and now reckoned to be about twenty five years old, and that her father, whose name is *Raphael*, is a negro of the *Mina* nation. In this certificate it is further declared, that the father of *Jean Pierre* has white spots (that is, of a deeper white than his natural skin) of the same shape, and in the same parts of the body as the son, and that the mother and one of the brothers of this boy's European father have like white spots, and in the same parts of the body.

However it may be in respect to those observations concerning the supposed resemblance of the white spots they may bear about them, to those

which mark *Jean Pierre*, it suffices to take notice here, that his body is entirely of the colour of a mulatto, except that he has from nature a white aigrette in his forehead like that of *Adelaide*. The hair in that part is white mixed with black, which is not so in *Adelaide*. The stomach, and the legs from two inches above the ancles to the middle of the calf of the legs, are entirely of a beautiful lively white; there is also a white spot in the upper part of the penis. Over the white parts of the legs there is a light white down, longer and thicker than children commonly have at this age.

Such is the natural history of those two extraordinary children; but what causes have produced those surprising phenomena and alteration of the natural colour of their skin, are left for others to investigate and explain.

*Monf. le Vallois* relates that the mother of *Adelaide*, whilst pregnant with her, was delighted in lying out all night in the open air, and contemplating the stars and planets, and that the great grandmother of *Jean Pierre* (a white lady) during the time of her being with child of her daughter, his grandmother, by the father's side, was frightened on having some milk spilled upon her. Whether this will account for her daughter and grandchildren being marked in the manner related, and for the spots observed on the mulatto boy descending to him—or whether the strong impression made upon the mother of *Adelaide*, by the nightly view of the stars and planetary system, may be considered as the cause of the very extraordinary appearances in that girl, every one will determine for themselves; there being many who dispute children's being ever marked by the fears, longings, or impressions made by mothers on the bodies of their children, at a certain time of pregnancy; for which they endeavour

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to account in different ways; whilst others, who have known a variety of children born with different marks on them (which have fallen under their particular notice) are equally confident of those marks proceeding from the causes alleged.



*Letter from the hon. Benjamin Lincoln, esq. F. A. A. to the honourable James Warren, esq. F. A. A. relating to the ingrafting of fruit trees, and the growth of vegetables.*

Hingham, Nov. 3, 1780.

My dear sir,

I TAKE this early opportunity, agreeable to my promise, to enclose you the sentiments of my friend on grafting, the growth of plants, trees, &c. These were given on a conversation which arose on my mentioning, that I had observed, for a number of years, an apple tree in my orchard, the natural fruit of which was early, having been grafted with a winter cyon, producing fruit very like in appearance to the fruit produced by the tree whence the cyon was taken, but destitute of those qualities inherent in that fruit, and necessary to its keeping through the winter. This led me to call in question the propriety of grafting winter fruit on a summer stock, and to enquire whether the stock through which, I supposed, the food passed to the cyon, and by which it was fitted properly to nourish the helpless and newly adopted branch, would not rather assimilate that, than that the cyon could, thus fed, retain all the qualities of its parent stock.

I am sensible, that there are objections to this new system; and, perhaps, difficulties may be raised to it, which cannot be obviated. But, as this may arise either from the errone-

ousness of the doctrine itself, or from the want of knowledge in the principles of vegetation, I think it should not be adopted or rejected without the fullest enquiry; and especially, since a knowledge of the laws of vegetation is one of the most interesting matters which can be the subject of discussion: for on vegetation depends our being; and in the same proportion as we obtain a knowledge thereof, and practice on that knowledge, in that proportion is our well-being promoted. That cultivation promotes vegetation, I think none will deny: for surely the earth, spontaneously, gives us but a bare subsistence. The reasons assigned, why the earth did not more early bear fruit, were, because there was no rain on the earth, and because there was no man to till the ground. The necessity of which seems to have produced one of the first decrees from heaven to man, even while he was in Eden, surrounded with all the blessings thereof, that he should dress the garden. Whether tilling and dressing the earth so prepares its parts that they become proper food for the plant, and thereby promote vegetation—whether by tilling and dressing, the land is fitted properly to receive the rays of the sun, and to receive and retain a suitable quantity of water, with which food for the plant is supposed, by some, to fall—or whether, by tilling and dressing, the land does really partake of more particles necessary to vegetation, and so attracts like particles floating in the air, as similar bodies attract each other, and so light on, and feed the plant in their fall, or do rest on the earth, are absorbed by the roots, and thence conveyed through the whole plant, are questions which can, I think, be determined with greater certainty when the principles of vegetation are fully ascertained.

Please to favour me with the result of your enquiries on these matters,

and it will much oblige him who has the honour to be, &c.

B. LINCOLN.

Hon. gen. Warren.

*Observations on the growth of trees downwards after the first year.*

THE idea has universally obtained, that trees grow from the root upwards. But perhaps it may appear probable, from the following considerations, that trees, from the first year, grow from the top downwards.

The growth of the annual plants seems to be the mere expanding of the parts contained in the seed, or bulb, which is a more perfect or full grown seed, differing but little from what is commonly called seed. Of this, the bulb of a tulip is the best example, as the parts are visible without the help of glasses. Upon removing the several coats of the bulb, each of which are the support of a leaf, in the centre of it, a large flower, near half an inch in length, will be found, and, in thickness, as large as a rye-straw; in which the petals, stile, filaments, and buttons are fully formed, and perfect in every respect but size and colour. The lower leaf of the plant, which, within the bulb, covers all the rest, swells and expands first: then the next above swells and expands; and so on until the whole are expanded: after which, the stalk arises, the flower swells and opens, and its beautiful colours are separated and exhibited to the eye. In this growth, the bulb is entirely wasted, except only the fine skin that covered each squamina, which remains much thinner than white paper. In the centre of the bulb, below the leaves, and adhering to the stalk, may be seen a very small bulb, much less than the seeds of the plant. This bulb is, however, increased with the growth of the leaves, until it becomes of the

size of the parent: and when the stalk, the leaves, and the fibrous roots decay and dry up, this new bulb remains, in the place of the old one, capable of a like growth the next year.

The first year's growth of a tree, like that of plants, is the mere expansion of the parts contained within the seed, so far as those parts are fitted for growth; and being expanded, the wood formed has no further growth, in any direction, but remains of the same size until it decays. Each leaf, which grows on the first year's shoot, as well as those of succeeding years, has annexed to it, immediately above its stem, an embryo bud, which is nourished and fitted to grow the following year, and to become a branch of the future tree. The leaf having performed its maternal duty, falls to the ground, and manures the tree from whence it fell.

The wood of these saplings of a year, is uniformly of one texture; but the wood of the next year is separated from it by a circular line, which remains as long as the wood lasts. Every succeeding year is distinguished in the same manner; so that by cutting the tree on one side, from the circumference to the centre, and counting those circles, you may ascertain its age. And one of the main questions, arising in the consideration of this subject, is, how are these annual additional circles of wood formed? Are they formed by the filling and expanding of fibres, which, too small for the observation of our senses, lie between the bark and the tree? or are they new fibres shooting either from below or from above? It appears, by examining the wounds of trees, that the wood being once separated, never heals up and grows together. The new wood grows over, and covers the wound; but the separated vessels never unite again: therefore, if the edge of a knife be



passed transversely through the bark half round a sapling, and those supposed extreme fine vessels were cut off, that side of the tree ought to cease growing, and the buds above it perish. But the fact is otherwise: for, cover the wound so as the air may be prevented from carrying off the moisture, which, when uncovered, flows from the wound, the buds above will grow nearly as well as if the wound was not made. To suppose that new vessels, formed at the root, ascend, and seeking the buds, by passing round the incision, immediately find them, is too ludicrous an objection to be seriously noticed. Let us, then, consider the buds which are formed in the bosom of every leaf.

One of those buds, rended from its parent plant, and inserted in the bark of another tree of the same genus, will grow as well as if it had been continued where nature placed it, and become a complete tree. Here, at least, there is a certainty, that there are no fibres calculated to support it, yet it will grow; and the whole tree, above the insertion in the stock, thus springing from a foster-bud, is exactly of the same nature in all respects, and produces the same fruit as the tree from which the bud was taken. This is the wonderful circumstance, which, though often attempted, has never been clearly accounted for. We shall proceed to enquire, then, how buds, inserted in foreign stocks, attain their growth.

When a bud is brought into contact with the stock, and the bark of the stock passed round and upon the bark laid in with the bud, the sap very quickly forms a gum, which glues them together, and stops the mouths of those vessels which had been torn by separating the bark and bud from the parent tree. Whoever examines the fact, must be convinced, that the bud, thus laid in, ne-

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ver has any further adherence to the stock; but remains, during the life of it, liable to be separated from it by dissolving that gum; and, from this circumstance, the size and shape of the wood, or bark, laid in with the bud, may be plainly discovered many years after its insertion. Here the communication between the stock and the bud is destroyed: for, if the sap penetrated this gum, it would dissolve it, and the bud would fall off; and there can certainly no fibres be sent from the root to feed a bud, which nature had not placed there. Nothing but experiment could induce a belief, that a bud, thus situated, would grow, become a tree, blossom, and bear fruit. Let us see how buds grow in the situation assigned them by nature.

The largeness of the bud, and the freedom with which it shoots, renders the peach-tree a proper subject of this enquiry. Early in the spring, when the bud first begins to swell, we shall find one or more fibres shooting from it downward. These fibres are so large, below the bud, as apparently to swell the bark, and, on removing the bark, the fibres may be plainly seen by the naked eye. Whoever carefully examines this fact, will scarcely doubt that this is really the manner in which buds begin to grow. Inoculations having the same power of sending out fibres from themselves as buds, in their natural situations, need no nourishment from the stock on which they are fixed; but it becomes the question, from whence is their nourishment derived?

A curious yellow carnation, presented to a gentleman at Lancaster, in the year 1778, being transplanted very early in the spring, and the weather proving cold, he was obliged to take it into the house, and keep it in a room where fire was kept. Notwithstanding his utmost care in keeping the earth well watered, the plant declined, the leaves became

soft, and rested on the earth, and the plant shewed every symptom of approaching death. In this state, having bended twigs over the pot, he wet a thick tow-cloth, and threw over the plant, which formed a moist atmosphere round it. In a few hours the leaves became erect, and elastic, and within three days the whole plant assumed the aspect of perfect health. The roots had a supply of moisture, but it did not grow: the leaves were supplied, and the plant instantly flourished.

(To be continued).

Notes on farming, by the hon. C. T.

THE success of farming depends principally on the collecting manure, on a proper change of crops, and on good tillage, or ploughing the ground properly, and keeping it clean, on the choice and management of stock, and on the care of the orchard and its produce. On these several articles, I shall make some notes, which are chiefly collected from Mr. Young's farmer's tour through England, published in 1771.

1. Means for collecting manure, and management of a farm-yard.

Let the farm-yard be made tolerably large; around it let there be sheds to shelter the cattle. The yard should be level, or rather hollow in the middle, that the ooze may not run off. Into this yard throw all your straw, which is not used for bedding. But as this will not be sufficient, it will be well to mow stubble, which is cut high, and cart it into the yard. All the rubbish and weeds in the lanes, &c. which should be cut while green and before they go to seed, should likewise be carted in. But above all, rake together the leaves in the woods, which may be loaded into carts with large baskets, and carry them into the yard. These being spread over the

yard, will, by the cattle treading on them, and receiving their dung and urine all winter, be converted into as rich a manure as any in the world.

When cattle are housed, they should be bedded every night with straw or leaves up to their bellies. This contributes to their health, and increases the dung. Let their stalls be cleaned out once a week; the heat of their bodies lying on the litter for that time, will begin and promote a fermentation, by which it will be reduced to good manure. By this mean, for every horse or cow kept in the stable during the winter, you may make at least fifteen or sixteen large loads of dung. This dung should, in the spring, be carted out to a stercorary, which should be prepared in the following manner. First spread a layer of earth (the cleansing of ditches, or earth scraped up from the surface of the ground will answer for this): then throw on a thick layer of dung, and then a layer of earth, and so alternately a layer of dung and earth, but so that the quantity of earth shall not exceed one half the quantity of dung. By this means you will have twenty-three or twenty-four large loads of good manure for every beast, and this laid on in the fall will be a good dressing for an acre of land.

In making the stercorary, the carts should not drive on the heap, as this would press it too much, and prevent the fermentation, which is necessary to render it good compost. The loads may be shot down by the heap, and thrown on with shovels, &c.

Great care should be taken to preserve the urine and ooze from the yard and stercorary. For this purpose, some careful farmers sink wells, the bottoms and sides of which are well clayed. To these the ooze is conducted, and when they are full, some pump it up and throw it back upon the heap; others cart it out and

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sprinkle it over the grafs. This laft is faid to be an excellent practice.

There is another practice which turns to great account, as well for increafing the quantity of manure, as for feeding horfes and cattle in the cheapeft manner. Let a field of red clover be fowed near the farm-yard; in the fecond year after it is fown, it will be fit for cutting by the fecond week in May. Let your horfes and cattle be then kept in the yard, and clover cut and given to them in the ftale, or in racks. It has been found by experience, that feven acres of clover will feed twenty horfes, feven cows, five calves, and as many pigs, for feventeen weeks. Suppofe the rate of keeping to be as follows :

20 horfes, 17 weeks, at	
2s. 6d. per week,	£. 42 10 0
7 cows, 17 weeks, at	
2s. 6d. ditto,	14 17 6
5 calves and 5 pigs, at	
1s. 6d. ditto,	6 7 6

The amount will be, £. 63 15 0 which is q<sup>l</sup>. 2s. 1d. per acre. Befides this, the quantity of dung is immense where there is litter at command; and this is always the cafe where leaves can be gathered from the woods; for cattle fed on green food, make much more urine in the fummer. It has been eftimated, that four or five hundred loads of good dung may be made in the time mentioned, from the above horfes and cattle. This, mixed with earth as before directed, will produce upwards of fix hundred loads of manure, which would be a pretty good dreffing for thirty acres of land.

It is to be obferved, that a careful farmer fuffers nothing to go to wafte; and therefore all the urine and offals from the houfe, and all the ordure from the neceffary, are carried and thrown upon the ftercorary or farm-yard.

In preparing a place for the fter-

corary, it may not be amifs firft to dig out the earth about two or three feet deep. In that cafe the bottom fhould be well rammed and clayed, to prevent the ooze from finking into the earth. The earth that is dug out, if of a loomy quality, or fandy mixed with loom, will ferve to mix with the dung; fo that the labour of digging the pit will not be loft.

In order to mix the earth and dung well together, the ftercorary fhould be turned at leaft once in the fummer. For this purpofe, a fmall fpace fhould be left at one end; then, beginning at that end, throw an equal fpace of the compoft from top to bottom into that empty fpace, and fo proceed till the whole is well turned and mixed. The ftercorary fhould be kept moift, but not too wet, for though a moderate degree of moifture promotes fermentation and putrefaction, yet too great a degree will prevent them. As our fummer fun is very warm, and exhales too much of the moifture, it will be well to cover the ftercorary with hurdles of leafy branches, or a thatched cover may be made over it.

## 2. *The change and courfe of crops.*

It is a common opinion and practice of this country, that land fhould yield a crop once in three years: this furely is bad farming, and what nothing but the great quantity of land could warrant. In England, and throughout Europe, and indeed in all the old fettled countries, where land is fcarce and rents high, it is abfolutely neceffary that a crop of fome fort be raifed from the ground every year. And experience has evinced that land will bear this, and that the goodnefs of the crop depends upon culture and manure, and a proper change of feeds. For though good land is of great importance, yet the fkill and induftry of the farmer, will, in a great degree, compensate for the want of goodnefs in the foil in its natural ftate: and it is found,

that by proper management, lands which are naturally poor, have been brought to yield crops nearly as great as rich lands, and much greater than rich lands ill managed. The man, therefore, to whose lot it has fallen to possess lands naturally poor, should not be discouraged, but rather stimulated to exert his abilities, and shew his skill in meliorating nature.

A succession of the same sort of crops will speedily exhaust the best land. For this reason the skilful farmer changes his crops almost every year. The succession most approved, and which is practised to great advantage in Norfolk, one of the best farming counties in England, is,

- 1 Turnips,
- 2 Barley, with cloverseed,
- 3 Clover,
- 4 Wheat.

Then turnips, &c. in succession again. Some have had the third and fourth year clover, and the fifth wheat.

Another course, which they find extremely beneficial, is,

- 1 Turnips,
- 2 Barley,
- 3 Clover, two years,
- 4 Buckwheat,
- 5 Wheat; then turnips, &c. again.

They plough four or five times for turnips, beginning in the fall. After the ploughing they leave the ground unharrowed to receive the benefit of the winter frosts. They plough it again in the spring, and having first laid on the manure, then they plough and harrow it again in May, and give it the last ploughing and harrowing in June, when the seed is sown.

Some put on their manure just before the last ploughing. With respect to this, experience will be the best director. The turnips should be sown in rows, or the seed drilled in with a drill plough. The turnips, while growing, should be hoed twice, or ploughed between the rows as is common for potatoes, and kept clear of weeds.

The crop is fed off by cattle and sheep. Some feed them off as they grow, confining the cattle and sheep by hurdles to an acre; when that is eaten up, removing the hurdles and taking in another acre, till the whole is fed off. Others pursue the following method. They first feed one piece, suppose an acre, by running a row of hurdles across the field; then, before they move the hurdles, they draw another acre, and cart them for the cattle to the acre eating off, and so on throughout the field, always carting the crop from the land where it grows, to the part last cleared. If the produce is large, and cattle are turned in, they spoil as much as they eat; but when turnips are laid clear above the soil, and the earth partly shaken off, they eat them up clean.

For barley, they commonly plough three times, but some four times; twice in the fall, leaving the last ploughing unharrowed to receive the benefit of the winter frosts; the other ploughing or ploughings they give in the winter or spring. With us, as our winters are generally severe, three, or even two ploughings, will do; one or two in the fall, and one in the spring. They sow four bushels of seed to the acre, and get from thirty-two to forty bushels in return. This seems a large quantity of seed; however, experience will shew, whether the quantity commonly sown in this country, which is usually not more than two bushels, or that sown in Norfolk, is best. And for this purpose, it will be well to try different quantities on the same field, and note the difference, and then follow that which answers best.

After the barley is sown and harrowed, they then sow the clover seed, eight or ten pounds of seed to the acre, and then roll the ground with a large wooden roller, which presses in the seeds and breaks the clods. In this country, some defer sowing the clover till the barley is off. The land



then ploughed and well harrowed, and sown with clover seed, eight or ten pounds to the acre, and then rolled. Some recommend the sowing buckwheat, before the last harrowing, and then to sow and roll in the clover seed. The buckwheat, they observe, shelters the young clover from the sun, and keeps down weeds and other grass. But in this case the buckwheat should be sown very thin. The mowing or cutting it in the fall, will not injure the clover. Both ways may be tried.



*Method of making pot-ash as practised in Hungary, and Poland.*

IN Hungary and Poland, the manufacture of pot-ashes is carried on in the woods. The buildings necessary are only wooden sheds, slightly built up, and contrived so as to be taken to pieces, and carried from one forest to another.

The most proper wood is the oak, bearing acorns, of which they pick the best trees, one of which will render five kettles, or about twelve and a half bushels of pot ashes, the quantity requisite for making 100 wt. They find a very great difference in the nature of the wood in different forests, that of Tjagadoru and Carpathia yielding double the quantity of lixivious salt that can be had out of the wood of the forests near Epire, under the Carpathian mountains. Too much attention cannot be had to the choice of proper wood, though to some people its importance may not appear at first view.

When the wood is felled, and cut into billets, it is burnt in a large hearth, under shade, to prevent the sun from spoiling the ashes, which must be kept dry, three, four, or six

months, before they are lixiviated; for experience shews, that they produce more salts, when kept a certain time, than when immediately used. Care must be taken to keep them free from dirt.

To lixivate, or draw the salts out of the ashes, they use a number of casks, not unlike French hogheads, according to the extent and largeness of their works. The casks are about two feet ten inches high; they have a double bottom, the uppermost of which is placed ten inches above the lowermost; it is perforated with holes, and the lowermost has one hole for the lie to drop gently through into a trough: the space between the two bottoms is filled with straw; twelve or sixteen of these casks being ranged in a row upon a trough, are filled with ashes, and by means of a canal or gutter laid upon the casks with a hole corresponding to each of them, water is conveyed into them from a pump: this water passing through the ashes, carries their salts along with it; as long as it is of a brownish or reddish colour they let it run through; but when no longer discoloured, they stop. The lie thus procured not being strong enough by passing through the ashes once, must be poured upon a second or third cask, till it is so strong that an egg will swim in it; however it must be observed, that there is a danger in making it too strong.

When the lie is thus procured, they proceed to evaporate the watry particles from it by ebullition; this they call making black pot-ashes. For this purpose they use iron pans, much like those used in making salt: they are about four feet diameter above, and near three feet deep; between a pair of them they have a brass boiler, somewhat smaller than the iron pots; they are fixed in masonry like a sugar baker's row of pans with a fire-place below them, and an open chimney

to carry off the steam. They use, according to the largeness of the works, three, six, nine, or twelve pans and boilers, in a work. Suppose they work only two iron pots and a brass boiler, they begin by filling one pan and the boiler with lie, and then making fire: in proportion as the lie evaporates and diminishes in the iron pan, it is supplied from the brass boiler, which is supplied with cold lie. When the first pot is boiled ten or eleven hours, they fill the second, and supply it continually from the boiler in the same manner as the first was: the first pan is still supplied with boiling lie from the boiler 'till the phlegm is entirely evaporated: they then stop putting lie to it: but, continuing the fire, the mass becomes thick and hard, and is what is called black pot-ashes. When it is cold, it is cut into pieces and taken out, and fresh lie is put into the pan, and the operation continued as mentioned above. When the first pan is evaporated, the second is only half evaporated; so the work is never discontinued during a week, in which time two men, relieving one another, make about seventeen hundred weight.

The process of calcining the black pot-ashes, rendering them of a fine whitish blue colour, and able to stand the weather without running into a liquid, is performed in an oblong kind of a furnace, in the midst of which there is a hearth somewhat raised with a border of bricks to prevent the pot-ashes from falling into the fire during calcination. The fire is made on each side of the hearth: there is a door to the hearth, through which the black pot-ashes are put into the furnace, and a door on each side of it to put in wood to the fire: the furnace is arched over, and there are three holes in the front part, to give vent to the smoke and vapours.

The proportion is as follows: The length of the furnace fifteen feet; the breadth twelve and a half feet, including the hearth and fire places; viz. the hearth eight and a half feet; the two fire places four feet; the height of the arch, from the hearth, three feet, all within the walls. When a sufficient quantity of black pot-ashes are ready, they begin to calcine, and make it a rule never to let the furnace cool, till they have finished the whole. The black pot-ashes are broke into lumps the size of a man's fist, and spread upon the hearth, after which the iron door is shut, and a gentle fire is made, and care taken to hinder the ashes from running and vitrifying, which a strong heat would occasion. When they grow red hot, they are stirred with an iron rake that they may calcine equally: when they begin to whiten, the flames become bright, and the fire is increased to the greatest degree. When they want to know if they are enough calcined, they take a lump out, and if it is white in the inside, they are done. The door of the hearth is always kept shut, except when they are stirring the pot-ashes: and in order to observe the progress of the calcination, they have a small hole in the iron door of the hearth to look in at. When the calcination is finished, they rake out the pot-ashes upon a pavement before the furnace: they are packed up in casks of fifteen to seventeen hundred weight. When the furnace has cooled a little, they put in more pot-ashes to calcine, and by relieving the workmen, continue calcining 'till all the black pot-ashes are done. Four men and a boy, constantly employed, make about forty to forty-two tons of calcined pot-ashes in a year, all the operations included, if the work is carried on, and rightly understood.

*Thoughts on the culture of hemp.—  
Published by order of the Boston  
committee for promoting agriculture.*

IN the remote part of the Russian empire, the farmer doth afford his hemp at so cheap a rate, as to allow of a transportation of many hundred miles by land, to Riga, Peterburgh, Archangel, and other ports, and from thence, (after duties and other charges paid) some hundred leagues to the southern parts of Europe; and with an addition of charge, from thence, of not less than 1000 leagues, to America. This being duly considered by the American farmers, who are generally upon a much better soil, and in a much happier climate, will be a means of convincing them, that notwithstanding the supposed difference in the price of labour, they may produce hemp with profit, since it may be transported to market with a light charge, free of duty, and vendible for cash, at more than seven times the price it cost at the place of its growth in Russia. Should it be said, the Russian farmer gets but little for his labour, yet it is to be presumed the American must grow rich by his; and it is expected with good reason, that a few years experience will convince him thereof.

The most proper time for sowing the seed cannot be fixed, as not only the climate, but even the situation of the land, wherein it is to be sowed, is to be considered—whether it be high and warm land, or more low, and exposed to wet, if sowed too early: some hemp-growers in Massachusetts have, for the most part, sowed about the same time they planted their Indian corn; others are of opinion, that as early in the spring, as the ground can be got ready, is most advisable; and this will be much earlier in some of the states than in others. Hemp is of quick

growth, and may seasonably arrive at maturity, though not sowed till the middle of May. But however the farmer may judge as to the season, let him be very cautious as to the goodness of the seed: an imposition must render fruitless the labour of the year. He is therefore to chuse such seed (of the last year's growth only) as appears fresh, firm, and bright, to be proved by rubbing it between his hands; if it suffer this without breaking, and is made much brighter, it may be called good; but if it be broken and made dusty by rubbing, it must be judged unfit for the farmer's use. Of good seed, the quantity to be used is according to the method used in sowing it. In the drill husbandry method (which the experience of some foreign countries, a few years since practised upon in Great Britain, and of late in America, has proved to be the best for raising of hemp, and therefore deserves the attention of every farmer) one bushel and an half of seed to an acre is sufficient: in the common husbandry, not less than three bushels are usually sowed; and sometimes more, according to the richness or poverty of the soil. In sowing, great care and judgment should be used, that it be not sowed too thick nor too thin; by the one, the crop will be hurt by its lodging; by the other, the bunn or straw will increase, and the hearle or coat be too thin.

The preparation of the soil in the drill way of sowing hemp-feed is the same as in the common way. The seed must be planted in double rows, with ten or twelve inches partitions, and with intervals, for the hoe-plough, from three to four feet broad, as the soil may be more or less rich; the richer the soil, the narrower may be the intervals. The seed must be planted and covered very shallow, and is not safe in general, if covered deeper than about half an inch, un-

less in very light soils, in which it may grow at one inch depth. This is recommended as the method of cultivating hemp to the greatest advantage, for it supplies the plants with fresh nourishment during their growth, and the filling the stalks, and the goodness of the coat depends much upon such supplies, which it cannot have in the common way. A plant raised in this method is often worth four plants raised in the other. If hemp produced in the common way will yield the farmer such a profit as he is fatished with, in the drill plough method, he may expect to grow rich.



*Mode of breaking steers to the draft in a few days.*

**L**ET the farmer carefully yoke his steers in a close yard or stable, and not move them till they get sufficiently accustomed to the yoke, so that they will eat their food, when yoked; which will be in the course of a day. Let them again be yoked the second day, and a pair of gentle horses or oxen be fastened before them, in which station let them stand, until they become familiar with said horses or oxen, which will generally be effected in one day, excepting the steers should be uncommonly wild, which will occasion a second day's practice, after the same manner; and the next day, the steers may be yoked, the horses or oxen put before them as usual, and let them be fastened to a wagon or any other carriage; they fearing the carriage behind them, and being accustomed to the old oxen before, they will proceed forward without being whipped or bruised. By the above process the farmer will never fail of success in having good working oxen.

A F A R M E R.

November 18, 1787.

*Method of making steel.*

**S**TEEL may be made by fusion or cementation; for the latter way, choose the best forged iron, or that which is most malleable, and impregnate it with a large portion of inflammable matter. First forge your iron into small bars; then take one part of powdered charcoal, and half a part of wood ashes, and mix them together; or take two parts of charcoal, moderately powdered, one part of bones, horns, hair, or skins of animals, burnt in a close kettle to blackness, powder them with half as much wood ashes in weight, and mix them together; then let a cylindrical vessel be constructed with fire brick, like a very large crucible, and place the bars of iron therein, in a perpendicular position; first having strewed the bottom over with the cementing materials an inch thick; then let the bars be placed an inch apart, and an inch from the sides of the crucible; fill up the interstices with the cementing mixture, two inches above the ends of the bars of iron; then cover the crucible with a lid that will stand fire, and lute it on with clay and sand; then kindle up a smart fire, and keep the crucible red hot for eight or ten hours. This will convert the iron into steel.

To temper the steel, give it a red hot heat, then plunge it suddenly into clean cold water. This changes the quality of the steel in an instant, from being a very ductile and soft, into a hard and stiff substance, so that the file will not cut it. The hotter the steel, and the colder the water into which the steel is plunged, the harder the steel will be. The same steel that has just been tempered, may be untempered by heating it, and letting it cool moderately.

Various mixtures are used for tempering steel, such as suet, oil, urine, water impregnated with soot, with sal ammoniac, and other salts.

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Steel may be turned into iron by cementing it with calcareous earths, and quick-lime.

*A recipe for an insolvent debtor.*

THE man who wishes to obtain this honourable redemption from the troublesome obligations of law and conscience, in conformity to the ruling spirit of the day, would do well in the first instance, to take safe counsel on the subject. It is not necessary, I presume, to go to gentlemen learned in the law. He had better go to some of his experienced neighbours—they can teach him better than science can, the complicated struggles of grace and nature, which colour the history of the business, and especially the several processes which are requisite in the working of this political salvation. He must then cast about to see how he can most safely dispose of his lands and chattles. His family are the fittest, and the most natural objects of his gifts. He can besides have more confidence in them than in strangers, that after the transactions are over, they will return what he has given them—a small and perhaps the most miserable remnant of his estate, I would advise him to reserve for his creditors. It will at least save appearances; and appearances (even those which are pretty thin too) are all that are required by the fashionable habits of the times. He must then contract large debts to his family, revive old continental transactions, and give generous bonds for the payment of the immense sums which his sons and daughters or parents and kinsmen had lent him in the days of his prosperity. If unluckily he has no such connexions, he must then hunt up neighbours and strangers on whom he can bestow his obligations; I would advise him

to be very careful that his new contracts exceed three fourths of all his former, and for fear that his memory may not serve him with accuracy, he had better err on the safe side, and extend his new contracts beyond all possible bounds of mistake. It is a good maxim to do business thoroughly, when we undertake it, and though some patriots are for dying in the last ditch, it is certainly better not to perish at all. The most material point remains, and that is the swearing part of the business. It ought therefore to be the great object and study of the insolvent. He must keep his conscience in perfect subordination, or he will assuredly fail. He should read the compositions of the jesuits, he should court the intoxication and pleasure, he should summon up the magnanimity of a sinner, and by such wholesome ways and means, endeavour to stifle and subdue the last gasp and struggles of mortal sensation.

The swearing part of the comedy I trust will therefore be found on experiment to be the easiest of the whole. If a man gives all his property away, he then can safely swear he has none; and that his inventory is just. If he gives a well drawn bond to another, that man can as safely swear that he has owing to him a bona fide debt. It is owing according to the forms of the law, and the bond, it is clear, was bona fide given for the purpose it was intended; he may further consider that even an oath is nothing in our days, but the form of law, whatever it might have been in the days of our superstitious ancestors, or whatever it might have been in the days of the old pagan Romans, who were weak enough to cultivate a reverence for an oath, as the surest pledge of civil obedience and of military discipline.

The legislatures of our wiser days have multiplied oaths till they have destroyed their efficacy, and have in

fact only required a certain set of words to be uttered before a certain magistrate, in order to make valid a certain species of bargains. These bargains we all know are intended to keep property in families, and prevent the rude interposition of creditors. If then the insolvent and his new associates comply with that form, they answer the law, and indeed their consciences too, for St. Paul inculcates obedience to the civil powers as the primary duty of the subject.

The insolvent is now by this time ripe for his discharge, and to that end he must be careful to notify the public through the channel of the newspaper, of the time and place of his discharge. He then attends and receives from the venerable hand of justice, the pardon of his past follies, deliverance from the hands of his enemies, and an open entrance into the bright prospects of peace and happiness, in the enjoyment of that property which he is to receive shortly from the unexampled generosity of his friends. If these directions are carefully attended to, and a little more time and experience added to the salutary practice, we may shortly expect to see every man able to conduct this business for himself; and, whenever he finds it convenient, to rid himself at once of all his debts as well as all the other obligations of law and gospel.



From the American Magazine.

*Letter on marriage.*

To the editor.

**F**IVE years have elapsed, since I was enrolled in the list of married men; and although very fortunate in my connection, and extremely happy, yet I flatter myself

I have reflection enough to attend to all the inconveniencies, as well as the pleasures of the married life. I am confident therefore that the following remarks do not proceed from the impulse of a blind passion, but from a dispassionate view of facts.

I shall but repeat a hackneyed observation, when I say that luxury tends to discourage early marriages; but the application of this remark to our own country, may be useful to the young of both sexes.

It has been the misfortune of the united states, that a passion for expensive living has increased faster than the means of supporting it. The people of any country should live in such a style, that they can in the ordinary course of business, support themselves in this style, and make a clear saving of profits. If men in general, cannot, with ordinary application and economy, maintain themselves and families in the customary style of living, and make clear profit, either the balance of trade must be much against that country, or the manners of its inhabitants too expensive. Perhaps both are true of these states. That the balance of trade is against us, is certain; and if our business will not support the customary expenses of living, and leave a profit, our manners should be reduced within narrower limits. The business of every country should regulate the manners of its inhabitants: The practice of borrowing the manners of other nations, is as absurd as to transplant the orange tree into Canada.

That we are too rapid in our advances to refinement in living, is unquestionably true. We labour hard to imitate the fashions of the richest commercial nation in Europe, while our business is clogged with more embarrassments, than the trade of any free nation on earth. Our pride obliges us to load ourselves with

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a thousand expensive and unnecessary articles, which serve as badges of splendid poverty.

Although I regret that this is the prevailing taste of my countrymen, I lament still more the unhappy effects of it in multiplying the number of bachelors and maids; yet I cannot justify all the fears of my male friends, who are deterred from engaging in matrimony by the difficulty of gaining a genteel subsistence. The expence of a family is considerable; but so is the expence of a single life; and notwithstanding there are many ladies, who would help to squander away the hard-earned profits of industry, yet there are many, too, who would assist in preserving them, and in accumulating an estate.

It is a just remark, that it is more difficult to keep money than to earn it: and whatever be the cause, few bachelors ever acquire the art of keeping, or œconomising the profits of their labour; and hence the vulgar remark that bachelors seldom get rich. A single man, aside of heavy expences and contingencies, must necessarily pay a thousand small sums in the course of a year, which would be saved in a family. A woman of any understanding will always contract her expences, within her husband's income, provided she knows what that income is. I have no doubt many men deceive their wives in this article, and when they fall in arrears, lay all the blame to their extravagance. Such a conduct is equally mean and criminal.

For my own part, I once indulged the same apprehensions of the expensiveness of a married life, and doubted my abilities to support it. But in the fascination of love, I ventured to try the experiment, and have yet no cause to repent of my rashness. Either I earn more money by a more diligent attention to business, or I spend less in useless amusements, or my partner is a bet-

ter œconomist, than I was when a bachelor. Whatever may be the reason, I find subsistence as easy as before; and I flatter myself have added to the sum of social felicity.

The merit of the American ladies is universally acknowledged—and all objections to matrimony, arising from an apprehension of the expence, will be removed as soon as a man is heartily in love. I recommend to all young men to be industrious, and to all of 25 years of age, to run the hazard of being as happy, as your humble servant,

PHILANDER.

New York, December 17, 1787.



*Directions to conduct a newspaper dispute, according to the most approved method now in practice.*

#### ARTICLE I.

**S**UPPLY yourself with all political, polemical, controversial, and hypercritical authors, and arrange them before you.

II. If you quote any of these authors, be sure to omit the sign of quotation. It will then carry all the marks of originality.

III. If you insert the sign of quotation, at the bottom of the passage quoted, write in Italics:—*according to the best of my recollection*;—and as your recollection cannot be supposed infallible, you may, with a good face, (by changing an affirmative into a negative term, and vice versa) pervert the sense of the author in favour of your argument. Thus, truth becomes a lie by prefixing the little negative *un*, and in a thousand other ways, as may easily be learned by looking into the commentaries, and miscellaneous productions of the great cis-atlantic Blackstone.

IV. Authors generally write in a train, and one argument supports an-

other like the links of a chain: now, in quotation, you may easily turn any author to your use, if you are careful to take out a link without the one which supports it, and here too, never trouble yourself with small words, for I will warrant you, no one will give himself the pain to follow you to the passage quoted.

V. If your piece is of a public nature, interesting to each sex, and every denomination, place at the top a long frontispiece in Latin; but be sure not to translate it, for as it stands, there are many hidden truths in it.

VI. Surcharge your piece well with the names of Coke, Sydney, Locke, Hale, and Blackstone; talk of Lycurgus, Solon, and Draco, as though you had been their contemporaries: let all your comparisons, similies and allegories be sublime, and on an extensive scale. Comparisons from the planetary and philosophical world, when applied to common life, have a most happy elucidation; they not only discover your learning, but are best suited to vulgar capacity; for those who cannot understand, will adore the incomprehensibility of your genius.

VII. If you find yourself growing obscure, thrust in a laconic sentence from the classics; nothing elucidates like it. At the conclusion, do not disgrace your piece with a signature in any modern language; let it rest on a Grecian or Roman pillar; an Aristides, Epaminondas, Lycurgus, Solon, Hortenius, Sempronius, or Brutus.

VIII. If your dispute is of a private or personal nature, throw no daggers in the dark; it is Indianish. The innocent and unconcerned, by these means, may fall a victim to your envenomed arrows. Make no professors of private settlement; this belongs to your antagonist; but bring him to a public tribunal. Here the merit of your dispute will depend on

the authority of your evidence, when the dead are sometimes called forth to assert: but there are certain laws established to conduct a private dispute.

IX. Arrange your books as directed in article first. Now, as you are not to quote a whole paragraph, but a sentence here and there, let them be diffusive authors, all treatises on the passions, and above all, the newspapers; here you will find an inexhaustible fund for slander and defamation, which you know is to pervade your whole piece.

X. Mingle in your ink three quarters gall: this being analogous to your mind, must act in concert with it, and prove a most potent ally.

XI. Read over one of the pieces of your antagonist, no matter which, for you are not to answer any, but to rail, defame, and vilify. Besides, were you to try to trace his arguments, your passions might cool, and so lose the whole life and support of your piece.

XII. Above, in capitals, place your antagonist's name; at the beginning of every sentence, turn your eye upon it; this will suggest proper ideas, and rancour will flow through the whole.

XIII. After you have finished your piece, and found it the dictates of passion, slander, and revenge, you will feel pleasing emotions, and then you may venture to write your introduction. In this assert, that the lies and misrepresentations of your antagonist, have moved you to be impartial, and perhaps rigidly severe. If you have ever discovered any marks of benevolence, generosity, or public spirit, do not forget to mention them; they will prepare your readers to swallow the whole gorge, and keep it down till they have read your antagonist.

October 8, 1787.

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## Some account of the opissum.

THE human mind, pleased with contemplating the various operations and phenomena of nature that perpetually surround us, is often at a loss on which to fix its attention. The animal world opens an immense avenue to real information and speculative enquiry, not only with respect to the structure and œconomy that generally prevails, but the diversity we observe in particular species.

Nothing has more especially engaged the attention of the learned, than the peculiarities of the *opissum*. The anatomy of this animal is not only generally unknown in a country of which it is a native, but very chimerical ideas have been formed, respecting the adhesion of the foetus in a very early state to the mammae. Many, from superficial inspection, have been induced to believe the usual generative organs in this species are either deficient, or, what is more absurd, entirely unnecessary: but from dissection we find that nature has been uncommonly provident in this instance. There are a double set of ovaria, two uteri and vaginae: and the appearance that deceives, is, that the time of gestation in this animal is not sufficiently long to exclude the young in as perfect a state as many others, so that a provision is made for their future increment, and greater state of perfection after their exclusion, by an adhesion to the mammae: nor is this the only security they have; when they are large enough to leave their first habitation, they are defended from danger by a false sack, supported by a bone wisely contrived to facilitate the different motions necessary for the reception and exit of the young.

Peterburgh, Dec. 13, 1787.

Extract of a letter from Cadwallader Colden, esq. to Dr. Fothergill, concerning the throat distemper.

Goldenham, (N. York,) Oct. 1, 1753.

Sir,

BEFORE I proceed in giving an account of the throat distemper, it is proper to tell you, that I have not had opportunities for observing all the appearances which it has made. I have seen it only in my own family, and in a few neighbours in the country, to whom I sometimes give advice, when they cannot obtain assistance otherwise: having entirely laid aside the practice of physic upwards of twenty years. What I chiefly learned was from the late Dr. Douglass, of Boston, a gentleman of great skill in medicine, and an accurate observer, having corresponded with him, while this distemper was frequent in the part of the country where I live.

The first appearance of the throat distemper was at Kingston, an inland town of New England, about the year 1735; and as this town has no foreign trade, it may be concluded that the disease was not imported.

It spread from thence, and moved gradually westward, so that it did not reach Hudson's river till near two years afterwards. It continued some time on the east side of Hudson's river, before it passed to the west, and appeared first in those places to which the people of New England chiefly resorted for trade, and in the places through which they travelled.

It continued to move westerly, till, I believe, it has at last spread over all the British colonies on the continent.

Though what I have mentioned seems evidently to shew, that this disease was propagated by infection, yet it did not spread in the same manner contagious distempers usually do: for children and young people were

only subject to it, with a few exceptions of some above twenty or thirty, and a very few old people, who died of it. Neither did it spread equally to all places, that were equally exposed to the infection. The poorer sort of people were more liable to have this disease than those who lived well, with all the conveniences of life. It has been more fatal in the country than in great towns. People of a scorbutic habit were most subject to it, and they who fed on pork, or lived on wet and low grounds. In some places, only a few persons or families were seized, while, in others, all escaped. In some families, it passed like a plague through all their children; in others, only one or two were seized with it. Some were seized with it at such a distance from the infected, that it could not be conceived in what manner they could receive the disease by infection. Some families had the disease mildly, while others, in the same place, and at the same time, had a most violent sort.

Ever since it came into the part of the country where I live (now about fourteen years) it frequently breaks out in different families and places, without any previous observable cause; but does not spread as it did at first. Sometimes a few only have it in a considerable neighbourhood. It seems as if some seeds, or leven, or secret cause remains, wherever it goes: for I hear of the like observations in other parts of the country. Several have been observed to have had it more than once.

The seeds of this distemper seem to be hatching, in the humours of the body, before any particular symptoms of it appear; for children have been observed to languish, for some time, before the disease manifested itself; and a corrosive humour bred in their issues, or in other sores, when they had any, and any constitutional ails were sometimes revived. When

the distemper becomes obvious, it has the common symptoms attending a fever, except that a nausea, or vomiting are seldom observed to accompany it. It is attended with a moist putrid heat, the skin being seldom parched. The pulse is usually low, but frequent and irregular: the countenance dejected, with lowness of spirits: no considerable thirst; the tongue much furred, and the furring sometimes extends all over the tonsils, as far as the eye can reach. At other times, in the milder kind, the tonsils appear only swelled, with white specks of about a quarter of an inch, or half an inch diameter, which are thrown off, from time to time, in tough cream coloured sloughs. When these come off, the tonsils appear deeply pitted and corroded, and the sloughs are soon again renewed. Sometimes all the parts near the gullet or throat, are much swelled, both inwardly and outwardly, so as to endanger a suffocation, and frequently mortify: but most generally the swelling inwardly is not so much as to make swallowing difficult. Sometimes these swellings imposthume.

In different years, and different persons, the symptoms are various. In some seasons it has been accompanied with miliary eruptions all over the skin: and, at such times, the symptoms about the throat have been mild, and the disease generally without danger, if not ill treated. Some have had sores like those on the tonsils, with a corrosive humour behind their ears, on the private and other parts of the body, sometimes without any ulceration in the throat.

The last complaint commonly is of an oppression or straitness in the upper part of the chest, with difficulty of breathing, and a deep hollow hoarse cough, ending in a livid strangled-like countenance, which is soon followed by death.

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with that loss of strength that is usual in other fevers; so that many have not been confined to their beds, but have walked about the room till within an hour or two of their death: and it has often appeared no way dangerous to the attendants, till the sick were in the last agonies; though the patients themselves are generally dejected and apprehensive, which by others is too often attributed only to a lowness of spirits. Some died on the fourth or fifth day; others on the fourteenth or fifteenth; some even later; and sometimes the corruption or putrefaction of the humours is so great before any remarkable symptoms appear, that nature is not able to raise a fever for its expulsion. In this case, the sick die suddenly by a general mortification, without a sensible struggle.

It was not discovered, by any anatomical inspection that was made, that any of the bowels were peculiarly affected; only the lungs appeared as in peripneumonic cases; but a general corruption and stench of the humours were very perceptible.

When the sores, after the sloughs cast off, appear of a fiery red, there is great danger; but when they are covered with a black crust, it is a fatal omen; as also when hemorrhages follow on any slight scratch.

When this disease first appeared, it was treated with the usual evacuations in a common angina, and few escaped. In many families, who had great many children, all died; no plague was more destructive. Generally when the sick fell into the hands of physicians not acquainted with the peculiar malignity of the disease, they miscarried.

However bleeding, or blistering, or lenient purgatives, may, on some occasions, be of use in the beginning of the disease, all sensible evacuations of every kind, after the disease has continued some time, are destructive. The consequences of them are, a ge-

neral tendency in the humours of the body to unfurmountable mortifications; so far, that the orifice made by the lancet in bleeding, and the adjacent parts mortify. So likewise the places where blisters were applied mortify; and the ichor, which issues from them, corrodes all the parts on which it distills, and produces mortifications. Mortifications follow on slight scratches. So general an acrimony has been produced in the humours after evacuations, that a bloody ichor has continued to issue from the body, after death, till the corpse was buried.

Cold air is always found to be prejudicial in the throat-distemper, either by protracting it, or throwing it on the lungs, or on some other part necessary for life. It has been frequently observed, that if persons, seemingly recovered and freed from all the manifest symptoms of the disease, went into the cool air, before the putrid heat or ferment was quite exhausted, they had relapses. All kinds of flesh-meat and fish were prejudicial; and spirituous liquors in any quantity, increased the malignity strongly, though, from a moderate use of them, some thought they found benefit, especially if they were at the same time kept from the cool air.

As the humours in this disease had a manifest tendency to mortifications, and the Peruvian bark, about this time, had become famous in their cure, it was tried by several, but without success.

The only successful method of cure was first discovered by Dr. Douglass of Boston, in the year 1736, and published by him; though, in the country places, very little minded afterwards. It was by confining the sick to bed, in a moderate warmth, so as to keep up constantly a free perspiration, by gentle diaphoretics, given from time to time, with warm teas. Sage tea was most commonly

used. This regimen was to be continued, not only till all the symptoms disappeared, but for some time afterwards, guarding carefully against cold, and using the diaphoretics night and morning. This method I found successful, not only in my own family, but with many of my neighbours. I only used the serpentaria as a diaphoretic, and perhaps it may be the best, as it is found to be a powerful antiseptic. If the disease was taken in the beginning, and this method pursued, seldom any of the terrible symptoms appeared, and the disease went through its course mildly. The use of the serpentaria was found beneficial, even after the appearance of the bad symptoms, and recovered them beyond our hopes. But care must be taken not to give it so as to cause any sweating, for sweating was found to be as prejudicial as any other sensible evacuation.

Dr. Douglass, by letter, informed me that he found well dulcified mercury of use in the throat-distemper, especially when joined with camphire. He thought that it supplied the place of the miliary eruption, which was found so salutary in this disease.

Though topical remedies signify very little, where the general method of cure by perspiration, is neglected; yet they are never omitted, because there is no satisfying the patients or their relations, without them. All greasy or unctuous applications were manifestly injurious.

The common gargle was a decoction of fumach berries and serpentaria, with a little allum dissolved in it. It was thought proper to gargle before they swallowed any thing.

The sores on the tonsils were frequently touched with the compound tincture of aloes mixed with honey.

And when the throat was swelled much, and in danger of mortification, fomentations were made with the decoction of the common bitter and aromatic herbs, in which sal

ammoniac, or, borax, or in want of them, common salt, was dissolved and sharp vinegar added. Flannel cloths, dipped in this, and wrung out almost dry, were applied to the swellings.

A girl of about ten years of age in my neighbourhood, at the time that the throat-distemper was frequent in the country, had sores on her private parts, like those on the tonsils in others, but no symptom of the distemper appeared in her throat: the ichor, which issued from them at times, dried up, and then she was seized with violent pains in her belly, which had continued for some time, and which she complained of when my advice was desired. I ordered her to be confined to her bed, and to take a large dose of the serpentaria, which soon gave her ease, and by continuing the common diaphoretic regimen, she perfectly recovered.

It would be impertinent in me to attempt any kind of reasoning with you on the nature of this disease; but as I have entertained an opinion of the fundamental distinction of the several species of fevers, I gladly embrace this opportunity of submitting it to your judgment and corrections, in hopes that you will favour me with your opinion thereon. I distinguish the humours of the body into three different stages or classes. First, that which circulates only within the larger ramifications of the veins and arteries, and which is properly called blood. Secondly, that which moves slowly in smaller ramifications than those in which the red globular parts can pass, and from which the sensible secretions are made. Thirdly, and lastly, that humour which moves and is contained in still finer ramifications, and which is sometimes distinguished by the name of lymph. This last I take to be the principal instrument in the vital and vegetable functions of an

animal. Food or no food or no different after it has circulation; tations; move slowly one or more scales of di which may and ranke rent stage circulate, faulty.

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animal. I suppose that the animal food or nourishment undergoes three different concoctions or digestions, after it has entered the course of the circulation, in these different ramifications; in all which, the humours move slowly: That by a fault in any one or more of these digestions, diseases of different kinds are produced, which may be properly distinguished and ranked, according to the different stages in which these humours circulate, and where the digestion is faulty.

I think that the seat of inflammatory fevers is in the first stage. That when the seat of the fever is in the second stage, it may appear under very different symptoms, as different secretions are more peculiarly affected by it: and lastly, that the fevers, commonly called nervous, have their seat in the third stage.

From this distinction it follows, that the morbid matter in the first class may be most effectually carried off by venesection: in the second by one or more of the sensible secretions: and in the last, by insensible perspiration only.

I conceive that the lymph, which moves separately in the finest and last ramifications of the vessels, has the fewest sensible qualities of any of the humours of the body; and though, in its natural state, the most benign and mild, like the white of an egg; yet is subject to the greatest alterations, and to become the most offensive. As the white of an egg, by putrefaction, becomes so nauseous, that the least drop of it taken into the stomach, or by any means mixed with the humours, throws the animal into the greatest disorder.

I need not mention to you, that seldom any one humour can be vitiated without affecting the others; and that frequently the fault in the last concoction is owing to some defect in the preceding: and from these a skilful physician will vary his

method of cure in several circumstances. But when the lymph is vitiated by infection, all the other digestions may be in order, and natural, till they become afterwards vitiated by the faulty lymph mixed with them. This distinction must deserve the peculiar regard of the physician.

I think that all these disorders which are commonly called nervous, whether acute or chronical, really proceed from some fault in the lymph; and that the distinction of lax and rigid fibres, is owing to an excess or defect of this humour, or to some other fault in it.

These hints, I am persuaded, are sufficient for you to form a judgment of my opinion in the classing of diseases, how far it is really founded in nature, and how far it may be of use in the cure of diseases. You will oblige me exceedingly, by letting me know your opinion freely. If you think me in an error, I shall insist on your telling me so, from your known candour and humanity, lest I should lead others into the like mistake.

I hope the following observation will not be disagreeable to you, as it relates to nervous fevers. In the year 1746, when I was at Albany, on the affairs of government, while preparations were making for the expedition, as we thought, then, intended against Canada, a nervous fever was epidemical, of which many died; whether from the malignity of the disease, or ignorance of the practitioners, I cannot say: for in no distempers are more errors committed than in nervous. I observed the disease in only one person, a lady. It had the appearance of an intermittent, or rather remittent, with a frequent low pulse, except in the paroxysms, when it was high; a dejection of spirits, great restlessness, an entire prostration of appetite, clammy sweats of a rancid putrescent

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smell. The physician who attended her, had treated it as an intermittent without success. She was brought very low, and had an aversion to all kind of medicines. I advised her to drink a glass of old Madeira wine every four or five hours. She very sensibly recovered, by the continued use of the wine, and sooner than could have been expected. A poor man, the same physician's patient, hearing of this lady's recovery, sent to beg a bottle of wine. It was given him, but not without the physician's consent, who permitted it, thinking the case desperate. He did, however, recover, by this means. He drank a gallon in a few days; and used it more freely than was allowed. Several others, in like manner, received benefit by wine. I cannot say of what use Madeira might have been in the beginning of the disease, because the cases which came to my knowledge of its benefit, were after the disease had continued long, and the sick were brought low. It was observable, however, that though many people were seized with this distemper, no one Madeira drinker had it. One gentleman, who, for several days, apprehended he had got the distemper, (as at first they complain only of a general lassitude, and of being neither well nor sick), told us, who took our glasses every evening, and kept well, that he was resolved to go with us that night. He drank very freely, and, from that time, he had no more symptoms. You know, that Hippocrates advises the use of wine in some fevers; but I question if he ever prescribed a bottle of strong wine, such as Madeira wine is, for a dose.

I shall mention one thing more, as not quite foreign to the subject I write on. It has been commonly believed, that inoculation of the small pox was an invention of the Circassians, to preserve the beauty of their women. But from what follows, it

seems probable, that the practice is much older, and that it came from Africa originally, with the distemper itself. I have lately learned from my negroes, that it is a common practice in their country, so that seldom any old people have the disease. They generally inoculate all their young, as soon as the infection comes into the neighbourhood. They tell me, that in the regimen under it, they only abstain from all flesh-meat, and drink plentifully of water acidulated with the juice of limes, which grows large and plentifully in their country. This, perhaps, may be worth observation, in hot seasons. It will be objected, how comes this not to have been sooner discovered, since so many negroes have been for near one hundred years past all over the colonies. But it is not to be wondered at, since we seldom converse with our negroes, especially with those who are not born among us; and though I learned this but lately, when the small pox was among us last spring, by some discourse being accidentally overheard among the negroes themselves, I have had the same negroes above twenty years about my house, without knowing it before this time. I examined them separately, and am persuaded, that, as they live at a great distance from the town, they had never heard of inoculation among us\*, and yet they described the method of inoculation the same as ours, viz. by making a small cut in the arm, and applying a little cotton dipped in the variolous pus.

#### NOTES.

\* Turning over accidentally, a little pamphlet, printed at Boston, in 1722, since I wrote what is above, I find, that some negroes in Boston had at that time asserted, that inoculation of the small pox was common in their country.

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er answers your expectations, I hope you will favour me with your sentiments thereon, which will greatly oblige, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

CADWALLADER COLDEN.



Letter from dr. Hall Jackson to dr. Ezra Stiles, on the efficacy of the *Digitalis Purpurea* in dropsies, &c.

Portsmouth, (N.H.) April 30, 1787.

Sir,

IN the year 1785, that justly celebrated botanist, dr. William Withering, physician to the general hospital in Birmingham, Great Britain, published a treatise on the *Digitalis Purpurea*, (Fox-glove) and its medical uses, with practical remarks on dropsies and other diseases. This valuable treatise came into my hands the same year; it contains more than an hundred and fifty cases of dropsies, many of them of the worst and most complicated kind, cured or relieved by this efficacious plant. I last year received from London, a small quantity of the dried leaves, and some of the same in powder. From repeated trials here, I am fully persuaded, that neither dr. Withering, nor his numerous correspondents, have exaggerated its salutary effects; it is, perhaps, the most powerful diuretic in nature, and possesses a remarkable quality of abating the action of the heart, and retarding the circulation of the blood.

By the last ship from London, and last post from Bolton, I was honoured with a very polite, obliging, and interesting letter from dr. Withering, and favoured also with a quantity of seeds of the Fox-glove by him. He writes, "I send more than you will have occasion for, in hopes that you will distribute them into the other states."

It is with much pleasure that I comply with the doctor's humane wish, in enclosing you a small quantity of them, being fully persuaded you will find equal satisfaction in the cultivation of so useful and ornamental a vegetable; it bears a beautiful purple bell-flower, worthy a place in any garden.

I take the liberty of transcribing two other passages in the doctor's letter, which, I think, may, with propriety, accompany the seed. "I am more and more convinced, that the *Digitalis*, under a judicious management, is one of the mildest and safest medicines we have, and one of the most efficacious. I believe it is not necessary to create a nausea, or any other disturbance in the system. I never use more than 1 *scruple fol. suc.*  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of infusion, and in substance rarely more than 3 *grains* in twenty-four hours."—" *Digitalis* has cured two other cases of insanity in this neighbourhood, and three cases of *hemoptæ*: the latter were of a kind attended with a quick bounding pulse, and I directed the medicine, from the quality I knew it possesses of abating the action of the heart."

I would just mention, that it is a biennial plant, and I conclude it will take some little care to preserve the roots from the severity of the frosts in this cold climate, though it flourishes spontaneously in the fields of England.

My good intention must be my apology in the liberty I have taken in troubling a gentleman of your character with so lengthy a letter, altogether professional. I wish to promulgate so valuable an acquisition in medicine, and am so unfortunate as not to be acquainted with any gentleman of the faculty in your state.

I am, sir, &c.

HALL JACKSON.

The rev. Ezra Stiles, president of Yale college.

*From the European magazine, for August, 1785.*

*An inestimable dissolvent for the human calculi.*

**M**R. Benjamin Colburne, of Bath, is a gentleman so universally known and esteemed, that were it not for the information of mankind throughout Europe, it would be needless to say, that he is a man of ample fortune, of the utmost candour, and possesses unbounded philanthropy: that being bred to physic (from the practice of which he has many years since retired) he has employed his leisure hours in chemical experiments, and with such success, that he has proved, beyond a doubt, on himself, and on several of his friends, that the solution of fixed alkaline salt, saturated with fixable air, will prevent the formation of calculi in the human bladder; nay, that calculi being steeped in that solution, will daily lose of their original weight, and be disposed to crumble and dissolve. The late ingenious dr. Dobson, in his "commentary on fixed air," had conceived that much benefit in many disorders, and particularly the gravel, might be received from the use of medicated waters. But it appears that mr. Colburne is the first man who has experienced, in his own person, the success of his own discovery; and having so done, he generously communicated it to his friends and neighbours, who have been equally relieved, and who were equally willing to have their names and cases published; which not only proves the efficacy of the medicine on a single patient, or constitution, but that it is such as acts on the urine of all human beings. Mr. Colburne's own case, the reverend doctor Cooper, the honourable and reverend G. Hamilton, of Taplow, of mr. Ainslie, and of a simple man of 65, who would not permit his

name to be published (yet equally benefitted) has been published by dr. Falconer, but published as an appendix to dr. Dobson's "commentary on fixed air." I have, therefore, thought it an act of humanity to give the poor, as well as the rich, the means of relief, by sending you a sketch of this valuable discovery; and it will then be in every man's power, either to prepare the solution himself, or to purchase it at a very moderate price: and they may be sure that this is sent to you with the same good design that it was communicated by the discoverer, whose memory, I have reason to believe, will be revered by many nations. Mr. Colburne informs us, that from several very accurate experiments on the human calculi steeped in alkaline salts, they were reduced in weight, and disposed to dissolve: this led him to try what effect it would produce, by the internal use, on the urine of those who suffer from the gravel or stone, and was agreeably surprised to find that his own (for he was a sufferer himself) from being turbid, and disposed to precipitation, became clear and of a natural colour. But the alkaline salts proving disagreeable and nauseating, he conceived that some more agreeable mode might be contrived to answer the same good purposes. Fixed air seemed to mr. Colburne the best means of success, and experience soon confirmed his hopes. The alkaline solution is thus prepared.

Put two ounces, troy-weight, of dry salt of tartar into an open earthen vessel, and pour upon it two quarts of the softest water to be had, and stir them well together. Let the solution stand for 24 hours, when the clear part must be poured off with care, to avoid any of the residuum, and put into the middle part of one of the glass machines for impregnating water with fixable air, and exposed to a stream of that

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ed; after the water has been 24 hours in this situation, it will be fit for use, and should be bottled off: well-cork the bottles, and set them up on their corks, bottom upwards; and with such care it will keep several weeks. Eight ounces may be taken three times in 24 hours without any inconvenience: but it may be best to begin with a smaller quantity.

It is needless to enumerate the cases of the other respectable gentlemen, whose names are mentioned above; it is sufficient to say, that Mr. Colburne, by an almost constant use of this medicine, enjoys better health and better spirits, though considerably turned of 60, than he had experienced for 20 years before, and never has any symptoms of gravel or stone, but when he happens to neglect (as is sometimes the case, when from home) his accustomed solution. It appears, also, that the other gentlemen whose names are mentioned, and a lady of Bath also, who from delicacy, not folly, has likewise withheld her name, have all experienced the wonderful effects of this very important discovery. Had this medicine been discovered by a practising and professional man, there is not a doubt but it would have made his fortune: or, indeed, had Mr. Colburne secretly communicated it to some medical friend (and no doubt he has many) it must, in that case, have enriched an individual. But he has generously given it for the good of all mankind, shewing them how to use it; and therefore I desire it to be extended in your useful and entertaining publication.



To his excellency Edmund Randolph, esq.

December 2, 1787.

Sir,

It has been reported in various parts of the state, that the reasons

which governed you in your disapprobation of the proposed federal constitution, no longer exist; and many of the people of this commonwealth have wished to know what objections could induce you to refuse your signature to a measure so flattering to many principal characters in America, and which is so generally supposed to contain the seeds of prosperity and happiness to the united states.

We are satisfied, sir, that the time is passed, when you might with propriety have been requested to communicate your sentiments to the general assembly on this subject; but as you have been pleased to favour us with your observations in private, and we conceive they would not only afford satisfaction to the public, but also be useful by the information and instruction they will convey, we hope, you can have no objection to enable us to make them public, through the medium of the press. We have the honour to be, with respectful esteem, sir, your most obedient servants,

M. Smith,

John H. Briggs,

Charles M. Thruston,

Mann Page, jun.

To M. Smith, Charles M. Thruston,  
John H. Briggs, and Mann Page,  
jun. officers.

December 10, 1787.

Gentlemen,

YOUR favour of the second instant, requesting permission to publish my letter on the new constitution, gives me an opportunity of making known my sentiments, which, perhaps, I ought not to decline. It has been written ever since its date, and was intended for the general assembly. But I have hitherto been restrained from sending it to them, by motives of delicacy arising from two questions depending before that body, the one respecting the constitution,

the other myself. At this day, too, I feel an unwillingness to bring it before the legislature, lest, in the diversity of opinion, I should excite a contest unfavourable to that harmony with which I trust the great subject will be discussed. I therefore submit the publication of the letter to your pleasure.

I beg leave, however, to remind you, that I have only mentioned my objections to the constitution in general terms, thinking it improper, and too voluminous, to explain them at full length. But it is my purpose to go at large into the constitution, when a fit occasion shall present itself.

I am, gentlemen, &c.

EDMUND RANDOLPH.

*A letter of his excellency Edmund Randolph, Esq. on the federal constitution.*

*Richmond, October 10, 1787.*

Sir,

THE constitution, which I inclosed to the general assembly, in a late official letter, appears without my signature. This circumstance, although trivial in its own nature, has been rendered rather important to myself at least, by being misunderstood by some, and misrepresented by others—As I disdain to conceal the reasons for withholding my subscription, I have always been, still am, and ever shall be, ready to proclaim them to the world. To the legislature, therefore, by whom I was deputed to the federal convention, I beg leave now to address them; affecting no indifference to the public opinion, but resolved not to court it by an unmanly sacrifice of my own judgment.

As this explanation will involve a summary, but general review of our federal situation; you will pardon me, I trust, although I should transgress the usual bounds of a letter.

Before my departure for the convention, I believed that the confederation was not so eminently defective, as it had been supposed; but after I entered into a free communication with those, who were best informed of the condition and interest of each state—after I had compared the intelligence derived from them, with the properties which ought to characterize the government of our union, I became persuaded, that the confederation was destitute of every energy, which a constitution of the united states ought to possess.

For the objects proposed by its institution were, that it should be a shield against foreign hostility, and a firm resort against domestic commotion; that it should cherish trade, and promote the prosperity of the states under its care.

But these are not among the attributes of our present union. Severe experience, under the pressure of war—a ruinous weakness, manifested since the return of peace—and the contemplation of those dangers, which darken the future prospect—have condemned the hope of grandeur and of safety under the auspices of the confederation.

In the exigencies of war, indeed, the history of its effects is short; the final ratification having been delayed until the beginning of the year 1781. But howsoever short, this period is distinguished by melancholy testimonies of its inability to maintain in harmony the social intercourse of the states; to defend congress against encroachments on their rights; and to obtain, by requisitions, supplies to the federal treasury or recruits to the federal armies. I shall not attempt an enumeration of the particular instances: but leave to your own remembrance, and the records of congress, the support of these assertions.

In the season of peace, too, not many years have elapsed: and yet each of them has produced fatal ex-

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amples of delinquency, and sometimes of pointed opposition to federal duties. To the various remonstrances of congress, I appeal for a gloomy, but unexaggerated narrative of the injuries, which our faith, honour, and happiness have sustained by the failures of the states.

But these evils are past: and some may be led, by an honest zeal, to conclude, that they cannot be repeated. Yes, sir, they will be repeated, as long as the confederation exists, and will bring with them other mischiefs, springing from the same source, which cannot be yet foreseen in their full array of terror.

If we examine the constitutions, and laws of the several states, it is immediately discovered, that the law of nations is unprovided with sanctions in many cases, which deeply affect public dignity and public justice. The letter, however, of the confederation, does not permit congress to remedy these defects: and such an authority, although evidently deducible from its spirit, cannot, without a violation of the second article, be assumed. Is it not a political phenomenon, that the head of the confederacy should be doomed to be plunged into war, from its wretched impotency to check offences against this law—and sentenced to witness, in unavailing anguish, the infraction of their engagements to foreign sovereigns?

And yet this is not the only grievous point of weakness. After a war shall be inevitable, the requisitions of congress, for quotas of men or money, will again prove unproductive and fallacious. Two causes will always conspire to this baneful consequence.

First. No government can be stable, which hangs on human inclination alone, unbiassed by the fear of coercion. And secondly, from the connection between states bound to proportionate contributions—jea-

lousies and suspicions naturally arise, which at least chill the ardour, if they do not excite the murmurs of the whole. I do not forget, indeed, that by one sudden impulse, our part of the American continent has been thrown into a military posture, and that in the earlier annals of the war, our armies marched to the field on the mere recommendations of congress. But ought we to argue from a contest thus signalized by the magnitude of its stake, that as often as a flame shall be hereafter kindled, the same enthusiasm will fill our legions—or renew them, as they may be thinned by losses?

If not, where shall we find protection? Impressions, like those, which prevent a compliance with the requisitions of regular forces, will deprive the American republic of the services of a militia. But let us suppose, that they are attainable, and acknowledge, as I always shall, that they are the natural support of a free government. When it is remembered, that in their absence agriculture must languish—that they are not habituated to military exposures, and the rigour of military discipline—and that the necessity of holding in readiness successive detachments, carries the expence far beyond that of enlistments—this resource ought to be adopted with caution.

As strongly too I am persuaded, that requisitions for money will not be more cordially received. For besides the distrust, which would prevail with respect to them also—besides the opinion, entertained by each of its own liberality and unsatisfied demands against the united states, there is another consideration not less worthy of attention. The first rule for determining each quota, was the value of all land granted or surveyed, and of the buildings and improvements thereon. It is no longer doubted, that an equitable, uniform mode of estimating that value, is

impracticable; and therefore twelve states have substituted the number of inhabitants under certain limitations, as the standard, according to which money is to be furnished. But under the subsisting articles of the union, the assent of the thirteenth state is necessary, and has not yet been given. This does of itself lessen the hope of procuring a revenue for federal uses; and the miscarriage of the impost almost rivets our despondency.

Amidst these disappointments, it would afford some consolation, if, when rebellion shall threaten any state, an ultimate asylum could be found under the wing of congress. But it is at least equivocal, whether they can intrude forces into a state, rent asunder by civil discord, even with the purest solicitude for our federal welfare, and on the most urgent intreaties of the state itself. Nay, the very allowance of this power, would be pageantry alone, from the want of money and men.

To these defects of congressional power, the history of man has subjoined others, not less alarming. I earnestly pray, that the recollection of common sufferings, which terminated in common glory, may check the sallies of violence, and perpetuate mutual friendship between the states. But I cannot presume, that we are superior to those unsocial passions, which under like circumstances have infested more ancient nations. I cannot presume, that through all time, in the daily mixture of American citizens with each other, in the conflicts for commercial advantages, in the discontents, which the neighbourhood of territory has been seen to engender in other quarters of the globe, and in the efforts of faction and intrigue—thirteen distinct communities under no effective superintending controul (as the united states confessedly now are, notwithstanding the bold terms of the confederation)

will avoid a hatred to each other deep and deadly.

In the prosecution of this enquiry we shall find the general prosperity to decline under a system this unnerved. No sooner is the merchant prepared for foreign ports with the treasures, which this new world kindly offers to his acceptance, than it is announced to him, that they are shut against American shipping, or opened under oppressive regulations. He urges congress to a counter-policy, and is answered only by condolence on the general misfortune. He is immediately struck with the conviction, that until exclusion shall be opposed to exclusion, and restriction to restriction, the American flag will be disgraced. For who can conceive, that thirteen legislatures, viewing commerce under different relations, and fancying themselves discharged from every obligation to concede the smallest of their commercial advantages for the good of the whole, will be wrought in a concert of action in defiance of every prejudice? Nor is this all:—let the great improvements be recounted, which have enriched and illustrated Europe—let it be noted, how few those are, which will be absolutely denied to the united states, comprehending within their boundaries the choicest blessings of climate, soil, and navigable waters; then let the most sanguine patriot banish, if he can, the mortifying belief, that all these must sleep, until they shall be roused by the vigour of a national government.

I have not exemplified the preceding remarks by minute details; because they are evidently fortified by truth, and the consciousness of united America. I shall therefore no longer deplore the unsuitness of the confederation to secure our peace; but proceed, with a truly unaffected distrust of my own opinions, to examine what order of powers the government of the united states ought

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to enjoy? how they ought to be defended against encroachments? whether they can be interwoven in the confederation without an alteration of its very essence? or must be lodged in new hands? shewing at the same time the convulsions, which seem to await us from a dissolution of the union or partial confederacies.

To mark the kind and degree of authority, which ought to be confided to the government of the united states is no more than to reverse the description, which I have already given, of the defects of the confederation.

From thence it will follow, that the operations of peace and war will be clogged without regular advances of money, and that these will be slow indeed, if dependent on supplication alone. For what better name do requisitions deserve, which may be evaded or opposed, without the fear of coercion? But although coercion is an indispensable ingredient, it ought not to be directed against a state, as a state, it being impossible to attempt it except by blockading the trade of the delinquent, or carrying war into its bowels. Even if these violent schemes were eligible, in other respects, both of them might perhaps be defeated by the scantiness of the public chest; would be tardy in their complete effect, as the expence of the land and naval equipments must first be reimbursed; and might drive the proscribed state into the desperate resolve of inviting foreign alliances. Against each of them lie separate unconquerable objections. A blockade is not equally applicable to all the states, they being differently circumstanced in commerce and in ports; nay an excommunication from the privileges of the union would be in vain, because every regulation or prohibition may be easily eluded under the rights of American citizenship, or of foreign

nations. But how shall we speak of the intrusion of troops? shall we arm citizens against citizens, and habituate them to shed kindred blood? shall we risque the inflicting of wounds, which will generate a rancour never to be subdued? would there be no room to fear, that an army, accustomed to fight, for the establishment of authority, would salute an emperor of their own? Let us not bring these things into jeopardy. Let us rather substitute the same process, by which individuals are compelled to contribute to the government of their own states. Instead of making requisitions to the legislatures, it would appear more proper, that taxes should be imposed by the federal head, under due modifications and guards; that the collector should demand from the citizens their respective quotas, and be supported as in the collection of ordinary taxes.

It follows, too, that, as the general government will be responsible to foreign nations, it ought to be able to annul any offensive measure, or enforce any public right. Perhaps among the topics on which they may be aggrieved or complain, the commercial intercourse, and the manner, in which contracts are discharged, may constitute the principal articles of clamour.

It follows, too, that the general government ought to be the supreme arbiter for adjusting every contention among the states. In all their connections, therefore, with each other, and particularly in commerce, which will probably create the greatest discord, it ought to hold the reins.

It follows, too, that, the general government ought to protect each state against domestic as well as external violence.

And lastly, it follows, that through the general government alone can we ever assume the rank,  
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to which we are entitled by our resources and situation.

Should the people of America surrender these powers, they can be paramount to the constitutions and ordinary acts of legislation, only by being delegated by them. I do not pretend to affirm, but I venture to believe, that if the confederation had been solemnly questioned in opposition to our constitution, or even to one of our laws, posterior to it, it must have given way. For never did it obtain with us a higher ratification, than a resolution of assembly in the daily form.

This will be one security against encroachment. But another, not less effectual, is, to exclude the individual states from any agency in the national government, as far as it may be safe, and their interposition may not be absolutely necessary.

But now, sir, permit me to declare, than in my humble judgment, the powers, by which alone the blessings of a general government can be accomplished, cannot be interwoven in the confederation without a change of its very essence; or, in other words, that the confederation must be thrown aside. This is almost demonstrable from the inefficacy of requisitions, and from the necessity of converting them into acts of authority. My suffrage, as a citizen, is also for additional powers. But to whom shall we commit these acts of authority, these additional powers? To congress? When I formerly lamented the defects in the jurisdiction of congress, I had no view to indicate any other opinion, than that the federal head ought not to be so circumscribed. For free as I am at all times to profess my reverence for that body, and the individuals who compose it, I am yet equally free to make known my aversion to repose such a trust in a tribunal so constituted. My objections are not the visions of theory, but the result of my

own observation in America, and of the experience of others abroad. 1. The legislative and executive are concentrated in the same persons. This, where real power exists, must eventuate in tyranny. 2. The representation of the states bears no proportion to their importance. This is an unreasonable subjection of the will of the majority to that of the minority. 3. The mode of election, and the liability to be recalled, may too often render the delegates rather partizans of their own states, than representatives of the union. 4. Cabal and intrigue must consequently gain an ascendancy in a course of years. 5. A single house of legislation will sometimes be precipitate, perhaps passionate. 6. As long as seven states are required for the smallest, and nine for the greatest votes, may not foreign influence at some future day insinuate itself, so as to interrupt every active exertion? 7. To crown the whole, it is scarcely within the verge of possibility that so numerous an assembly should acquire that secrecy, dispatch and vigour, which are the test or excellence in the executive department.

My inference from these facts and principles is, that the new powers must be deposited in a new body, growing out of a consolidation of the union as far as the circumstances of the states will allow. Perhaps, however, some may meditate its dissolution, and others partial confederacies.

The first is an idea awful indeed and irreconcilable with a very early, and hitherto uniform conviction, that without union we must be undone. For before the voice of war was heard, the pulse of the then colonies, was tried and found to beat in unison. The unremitted labour of our enemies was to divide, and the policy of every congress to bind us together. But in no example was this truth more clearly displayed, than in the prudence with which indepen-

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ence was unfolded to the sight, and in the forbearance to declare it, until America almost unanimously called for it. After we had thus launched into troubles, never before explored, and in the hour of heavy distress, the remembrance of our social strength not only forbade despair, but drew from congress the most illustrious repetition of their settled purpose to despise all terms short of independence.

Behold, then, how successful and glorious we have been, while we acted in fraternal concord. But let us discard the illusion, that by this success and this glory the crest of danger has irrecoverably fallen. Our governments are yet too youthful to have acquired stability from habit. Our very quiet depends upon the duration of the union. Among the upright and intelligent, few can read without emotion the future fate of the states, if severed from each other. Then shall we learn the full weight of foreign intrigue—then shall we hear of partitions of our country. If a prince, inflamed by the lust of conquest, should use one state, as the instrument of enslaving others—if every state is to be wearied by perpetual alarms, and compelled to maintain large military establishments—if all questions are to be decided by an appeal to arms, where a difference of opinion cannot be removed by negotiation—in a word, if all the direful misfortunes which haunt the peace of rival nations, are to triumph over the land—for what have we contended? Why have we exhausted our wealth? Why have we basely betrayed the heroic martyrs of the federal cause?

But dreadful as the total dissolution of the union is to my mind, I entertain no less horror at the thought of partial confederacies. I have not the least ground for supposing that an overture of this kind would be listened to by a single state; and the presumption is, that the politics of the greater part of the states

flow from the warmest attachment to an union of the whole. If however a lesser confederacy should be obtained by Virginia, let me conjure my countrymen well to weigh the probable consequences, before they attempt to form it.

On such an event, the strength of the union would be divided into two or perhaps three parts. Has it so increased since the war as to be divisible—and yet remain sufficient for our happiness?

The utmost limit of any partial confederacy which Virginia could expect to form, would comprehend only the three southern states and her nearest northern neighbour. But they, like ourselves, are diminished in their real force, by the mixture of an unhappy species of population.

Again may I ask, whether the opulence of the united states has been augmented since the war? This is answered in the negative by a load of debt, and the declension of trade.

At all times must a southern confederacy support ships of war and soldiery. As soon would a navy move from the forest, and an army spring from the earth, as such a confederacy, indebted, impoverished in its commerce, and destitute of men, could, for some years at least, provide an ample defence for itself.

Let it not be forgotten, that nations, which can enforce their rights, have large claims against the united states, and that the creditor may insist on payment from any one of them. Which of them would probably be the victim? The most productive and the most exposed. When vexed by reprisals, or war, the southern states will sue for alliances on this continent, or beyond sea. If for the former, the necessity of an union of the whole is decided. If for the latter, America will, I fear, re-act the scenes of confusion and bloodshed, exhibited amongst most of those nations, which have, too late, re-

pented the folly of relying on auxiliaries.

Two or more confederacies cannot but be competitors for power. The ancient friendship between the citizens of America being thus cut off, bitterness and hostility will succeed in its place. In order to prepare against surrounding danger, we shall be compelled to vest, somewhere or other, power approaching near to a military government.

The annals of the world have abounded so much with instances of a divided people being a prey to foreign influence, that I shall not restrain my apprehensions of it, should our union be torn asunder. The opportunity of insinuating it will be multiplied in proportion to the parts, into which we may be broken.

In short, fir, I am fatigued with  
 fummoing up to my imagination,  
 the miseries which will harrafs the  
 united states, if torn from each other,  
 and which will not end, until they  
 are superfed by fresh mischiefs un-  
 der the yoke of a tyrant.

I come, therefore, to the last and perhaps only refuge in our difficulties, a consolidation of the union, as far as circumstances will permit. To fulfil this desirable object, the constitution was framed by the federal convention. A quorum of eleven states and the only member from a twelfth, have subscribed it; Mr. Mason of Virginia, Mr. Gerry of Massachusetts, and myself, having refused to subscribe.

Why I refused, would, I hope, be solved to the satisfaction of those who know me, by saying that a sense of duty commanded me thus to act. It commanded me, sir, for believe me, that no event of my life ever occupied more of my reflection. To subscribe seemed to offer no inconsiderable gratification, since it would have preluded me to the world as a fellow-labourer with the learned and zealous statesmen of America. But it was

far more interesting to my feelings, that I was about to differ from three of my colleagues ; one of whom is to the honour of the country, which he has saved, embosomed in their affections, and can receive no praise from the highest lustre of language, the other two of whom have been long enrolled among the wisest and best lovers of the commonwealth, and the unshaken and intimate friendship of all whom I have ever prized, and still do prize, as among the happiest of all my acquisitions. I was no stranger to the reigning partiality for the members who composed the convention ; and had not the smallest doubt, that from this cause, and from the ardour for a reform of government, the first applauses, at least, would be loud, and profuse. I suspected, too, that there was something in the human breast, which for a time would be apt to construe a temperateness in politics into an enmity to the union. Nay I plainly foresaw, that in the dissensions of parties, a middle line would probably be interpreted into a want of enterprise and decision. But these considerations, how seducing soever, were feeble opponents to the suggestions of my conscience. I was sent to exercise my judgment, and to exercise it was my fixed determination ; being instructed by even an imperfect acquaintance with mankind, that self-approbation is the only true reward, which a political career can bestow, and that popularity would have been but another name for perfidy, if to secure it, I had given up the freedom of thinking for myself.

It would have been a peculiar pleasure to me, to have ascertained, before I left Virginia, the temper and genius of my fellow citizens, considered relatively to a government, so substantially differing from the confederation, as that which is now submitted. But this was for many obvious reasons impossible; and

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I was thereby deprived of what I thought the necessary guides.

I saw, however, that the confederation was tottering from its own weakness, and that the sitting of the convention was a signal of its total insufficiency. I was therefore ready to assent to a scheme of government, which was proposed, and which went beyond the limits of the confederation, believing, that without being too extensive, it would have preserved our tranquility, until that temper and that genius should be collected.

But when the plan which is now before the general assembly, was on its passage through the convention, I moved, that the state conventions should be at liberty to amend, and that a second general convention should be holden to discuss the amendments, which should be suggested by them. This motion was in some measure justified by the manner in which the confederation was forwarded originally by congress to the state legislatures, in many of which amendments were proposed, and those amendments were afterwards examined in congress. Such a motion was doubly expedient here, as the delegation of so much more power was fought for. But it was negatived. I then expressed my unwillingness to sign. My reasons were the following:

1. It is said in the resolutions, which accompany the constitution, that it is to be submitted to a convention of delegates, chosen in each state by the people thereof, for their assent and ratification. The meaning of these terms is allowed universally to be, that the convention must either adopt the constitution in the whole, or reject it in the whole, and is positively forbidden to amend. If therefore I had signed, I should have felt myself bound to be silent as to amendments, and to endeavour to support the constitution without the correction of a letter. With this

consequence before my eyes, and with a determination to attempt an amendment, I was taught by a regard for consistency not to sign.

2. My opinion always was, and still is, that every citizen of America, let the crisis be what it may, ought to have a full opportunity to propose through his representatives any amendment, which in his apprehension tends to the public welfare.—By signing I should have contradicted this sentiment.

3. A constitution ought to have the hearts of the people on its side. But if at a future day it should be burdensome, after having been adopted in the whole, and they should insinuate, that it was in some measure forced upon them, by being confined to the single alternative of taking or rejecting it altogether, under my impressions and with my opinions I should not be able to justify myself had I signed.

4. I was always satisfied, as I have now experienced, that this great subject would be placed in new lights and attitudes by the criticism of the world, and that no man can assure himself, how a constitution will work for a course of years, until at least he shall have heard the observations of the people at large. I also fear more from inaccuracies in a constitution than from gross errors in any other composition; because our dearest interests are to be regulated by it, and power, if loosely given, especially where it will be interpreted with great latitude, may bring sorrow in its execution. Had I signed with these ideas, I should have virtually shut my ears against the information which I ardently desired.

5. I was afraid, that if the constitution was to be submitted to the people, to be wholly adopted or wholly rejected by them, they would not only reject, but bid a lasting farewell to the union. This formidable event I wished to avert, by

keeping myself free to propose amendments, and thus, if possible, to remove the obstacles to an effectual government. But it will be asked, whether all these arguments were not well weighed in convention. They were, sir, and with great candour. Nay, when I called to mind the respectability of those with whom I was associated, I almost lost confidence in these principles. On other occasions I should cheerfully have yielded to a majority; on this the fate of thousands, yet unborn, enjoined me not to yield, until I was convinced.

Again may I be asked, why the mode pointed out in the constitution for its amendment, may not be a sufficient security against its imperfections, without now arresting it in its progress?—My answers are, 1. That it is better to amend, while we have the constitution in our power, while the passions of designing men are not yet enlisted, and while a bare majority of the states may amend, than to wait for the uncertain assent of three fourths of the states. 2. That a bad feature in government becomes more and more fixed every day. 3. That frequent changes of a constitution, even if practicable, ought not to be wished, but avoided as much as possible. And 4, that in the present case it may be questionable, whether, after the particular advantages of its operation shall be discerned, three-fourths of the states can be induced to amend.

I confess, that it is no easy task, to devise a scheme which shall be suitable to the views of all. Many expedients have occurred to me, but none of them appear less exceptionable than this, that if our convention should choose to amend, another federal convention be recommended; that in that federal convention the amendments proposed by this or any other state, be discussed; and if incorporated in the constitution or re-

jected, or if a proper number of the other states should be unwilling to accede to a second convention, the constitution be again laid before the same state conventions, which shall again assemble on the summons of the executives, and it shall be either wholly adopted, or wholly rejected without a further power of amendment. I count such a delay as nothing, in comparison with so grand an object; especially too as the privilege of amending must terminate after the use of it once.

I should now conclude this letter, which is already too long, were it not incumbent on me from having contended for amendments, to set forth the particulars, which I conceive to require correction. I undertake this with reluctance; because it is remote from my intentions to catch the prejudices or prepossessions of any man. But as I mean only to manifest, that I have not been actuated by caprice, and now to explain every objection at full length would be an immense labour, I shall content myself with enumerating certain heads, in which the constitution is most repugnant to my wishes.

The two first points are the equality of suffrage in the senate, and the submission of commerce to a mere majority in the legislature, with no other check than the revision of the president. I conjecture that neither of these things can be corrected; and particularly the former; without which we must have risen perhaps in disorder.

But I am sanguine in hoping, that in every other justly obnoxious clause, Virginia will be seconded by a majority of the states. I hope that she will be seconded, 1. In causing all ambiguities of expression to be precisely explained: 2. In rendering the president ineligible after a given number of years; 3. In taking from him either the power of nominating to the judiciary offices, or of filling

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up vacancies which therein may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session: 4. In taking from him the power of pardoning for treason, at least before conviction: 5. In drawing a line between the powers of congress and individual states; and in defining the former, so as to leave no clashing of jurisdictions, nor dangerous disputes: and to prevent the one from being swallowed up by the other, under the cover of general words and implication: 6. in abridging the power of the senate to make treaties the supreme laws of the land: 7. in providing a tribunal instead of the senate for the impeachment of senators: 8. in incapacitating the congress to determine their own salaries: and 9. in limiting and defining the judicial power.

The proper remedy must be assigned to the wisdom of the convention: and the final step which Virginia shall pursue, if her overtures are discarded, must also rest with them.

But as I affect neither mystery nor subtilty in politics, I hesitate not to say, that the most fervent prayer of my soul is the establishment of a firm, energetic government; that the most inveterate curse which can befall us, is a dissolution of the union; and that the present moment, if suffered to pass away unemployed, can never be recalled. These were my opinions, while I acted as a delegate; they sway me, while I speak as a private citizen. I shall therefore cling to the union, as the rock of our salvation, and urge Virginia to finish the salutary work which she has begun. And if after our best efforts for amendments, they cannot be obtained, I scruple not to declare, (notwithstanding the advantage which such a declaration may give to the enemies of my proposal) that I will, as an individual citizen, accept the constitution; because I will regu-

late myself by the spirit of America.

You will excuse me, sir, for having been thus tedious. My feelings and duty demanded this exposition: for through no other channel could I rescue my omission to sign from misrepresentation, and in no more effectual way could I exhibit to the general assembly an unreserved history of my conduct.

I have the honour, sir, to be, with great respect,

your most obedient servant,

EDMUND RANDOLPH.

*The hon. the speaker of the  
house of delegates.*



*At a meeting of a respectable number of inhabitants of the county of Chowan, and the town of Edenton, at the court-house in Edenton, on the 8th day of November, 1787, pursuant to an advertisement from their representatives in the general assembly—Thomas Benbury, esq. chairman—the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to.*

**R**ESOLVED, that in the opinion of this meeting, this state can have no prospect either of security or honour, but by a firm and indissoluble union with the other states in the confederation.

That the benefits derived from union were most remarkably and providentially displayed by the glorious and successful termination of a war, in which we were for a long time very unequally engaged, and have been no less apparent from the state of anarchy, distress and dishonour, to which we have been exposed since the peace, for want of a continental government of sufficient energy to answer all the purposes for which our confederation can be of any real use to us.

That in our present situation, con-

gress being without either money, credit or resources, (for the voluntary and unanimous concurrence of thirteen states in any one measure, we are now convinced, is a futile dependence) it is full time, if we mean to be a united people, to establish such a government as can keep us together, otherwise that independence, which we have obtained so hardly, and prize so much, will pass away like a shadow, and we shall be numbered among the visionary and unhappy of mankind.

That such being our situation, and when we had almost despaired of any material and honourable change, we view with admiration and gratitude, a system formed by the unanimous concurrence of twelve states, which, magnanimously disdaining petty competitions of local and private interests, embraced with patriotic ardour, the great object of an united government, calculated, (to use their own excellent words) to establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

That amidst other circumstances which fill our hearts with joy on this important occasion, we cannot consider with indifference the distinguished part which our immortal general has taken in this great work, calculated to complete the happiness of which he laid the foundation; and we consider it as an act of providence, for which we ought to be particularly thankful, that he extended to so late a period the valuable life of that venerable man, Dr. Franklin, whose wisdom, fortitude, and perseverance had so great a share in establishing the peace and independence of our country.

That it is in vain for us to expect for any abler assistance than that given by those and other illustrious characters in the late convention, whose de-

liberations appear to have been conducted with a degree of temper and assiduity suited to the difficult task they were engaged in: and therefore we think every hour of delay, in carrying their propositions into effect, is unnecessary for any good purpose; and by continuing the present evils of imbecility, anarchy, and national dishonour, may endanger the loss of all those blessings, for the sake of which any government can be of the least use, and a free government must be of the greatest.

Resolved, therefore, that this meeting do earnestly desire that their members for this town and county, do use their utmost efforts to obtain a resolution of the general assembly, appointing the choice and meeting of representatives of the people, in a convention, pursuant to the recommendation of the late convention held at Philadelphia, in order to deliberate on the new constitution proposed; and that the time of holding the said convention be appointed on as early a day as possible.

Resolved, also, that this meeting entertain a very grateful sense of the eminent services rendered to this state by its delegates in the late convention; and are in particular obliged to Dr. Williamson for the able and useful information he has this day given on the subject of the new constitution proposed.

By order of the meeting,  
(signed)

THOMAS BENBURY, Ch.



*Edenton, November 12, 1787.*

*Address of the grand jury of Edenton.*

**WE**, the grand jury for the district of Edenton considering the present as a very important crisis in the affairs of America, and being



deeply sensible of the necessity of a firm and lasting union among the American states, to insure the common safety and liberty of all, hope will not be deemed presuming in us, that we take this occasion to express our sentiments on the subject of the new constitution, proposed by the late respectable convention. We believe none can be so ignorant as not to know, and we hope few are so unfeeling as not to regret, the disordered and distracted state in which the affairs of the union have been for a long time past. No sooner was the danger of a common enemy removed, than the states immediately detached themselves from the general concerns of the whole, as if our future fate was out of the power of fortune. The consequence has been, our public debts unpaid, the treaty of peace unfulfilled on both sides, our commerce at the very verge of ruin, and all private industry at a stand, for want of an united vigorous government. Quotas demanded which we can never pay, and congress preserving merely the shadow of authority, without possessing one substantial property of power. These evils dictated the necessity of a change, and the same happy expedient of an union of councils, which formed the confederation, was adopted to remedy its defects. Experience had pointed these out, and we believe it would be difficult to draw together in any country, a body of abler men than the persons appointed on this important occasion. They were not only able men, but entitled to the highest confidence which can be bestowed by any people upon illustrious and successful leaders: and the same patriotism of character which formerly distinguished so many of them in the most trying scenes, was visible in the anxious and deep attention they employed on this momentous subject. A work coming from such men, after such long deliberation, is entitled to great respect.

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tled to the outmost respect, especially, as all the states assembled were unanimous, a circumstance that strongly shews the purity of their intentions, their sense of the absolute necessity that a new constitution should be immediately formed, and that little subordinate attentions to local interests, ought to give way to the great object of the general good. There is nothing we hold in greater disdain, nor is there any thing more inconsistent with common prudence, as well as the most ordinary share of public spirit, than that we should cavil about trifles when our all is at stake; that we should slight the present favourable opportunity, which may be the only one we may ever enjoy, to establish a free and energetic government, when we now lie at the mercy of the most inconsiderable enemy, and have an union in nothing but in name. We admire in the new constitution, a proper jealousy of liberty mixed with a due regard to the necessity of a strong authoritative government. Such a one is as requisite for a confederated, as for a single government, since it would not be more ridiculous or futile for our own assembly to depend for a sanction to its laws on an unanimous concurrence of all the counties in the state, than for congress to depend for any necessary exertion of power on the unanimous concurrence of all the states in the union. One weak, corrupted, or unprincipled state might in such a case destroy the whole. This evil, the effect of which we have already felt, is, in our opinion, happily remedied by the constitution proposed, with an advantage, in addition, of a popular representative of the people at large accompanied with useful checks to guard against possible abuses. It is also a part of the constitution that we observe with particular pleasure, that nine states may at any time make alterations, so that any changes, which

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experience may point out, can be made without the danger of such calamities as are incident upon changes of government in all other countries, where they can be only brought about by a civil war. Nor can we avoid dwelling with delight upon those many provisions, calculated to make us as much one people as possible, and to impress upon the minds of all, that useful and important truth, that our strength consists in union, and nothing can hurt us but division. May this great truth, so important for us, so formidable to our enemies, rest upon the minds of all well wishers to their country, as the watch-word of American liberty and safety! The various attempts that were made to divide us during the war, and the danger of similar efforts being used on the present occasion to make us distrust our best and ablest characters, ought to put us upon our guard that we may not suffer ourselves to be the dupes of an insidious policy working for our destruction. But we trust in God, that the same all-powerful providence, which has hitherto so wonderfully preserved us, will still continue to protect us from the machinations of all our enemies, internal and external; and that by a wise use of the vast advantages in our possession, this country may become, as it seems destined to be, an asylum for all the oppressed upon the globe.

Entertaining these sentiments, which the warmth of our feelings hath carried to a greater length than we intended, we most earnestly wish that the general assembly may appoint the meeting of a convention on as early a day as possible, that no reproach of unnecessary delay may lie on us, when, in all human probability, upon our speedy adoption or rejection of this constitution it may depend, whether we shall be truly a nation happy in ourselves, and respected by the rest of mankind, or an

inconsiderable scattered people, perpetually driving to and fro, in search of a perfection which never can be found; amusing ourselves with visionary ideas, when we might be enjoying real blessings, and at length doomed to feel the curse of all human discontent, the consciousness that by rejecting the means providence hath put in our power, we have become both wretched and contemptible.

<i>Wm. Bennet, foreman,</i>	<i>J. Bracket,</i>
<i>C. Clark,</i>	<i>J. Riscoe,</i>
<i>T. Taylor,</i>	<i>L. Lewis,</i>
<i>J. Fritzell,</i>	<i>J. Wood,</i>
<i>A. Norstreet,</i>	<i>R. Gray,</i>
<i>W. Righton,</i>	<i>E. Moore,</i>
<i>F. Toms,</i>	<i>J. Perry,</i>
<i>J. Horne,</i>	<i>H. Hill,</i>
<i>R. Boyd,</i>	<i>E. Cook,</i>



*At a meeting of sundry respectable inhabitants of the county of Northampton, held at Easton, the 20th day of December, 1787, Alexander Patterson, esq. in the chair.*

THE meeting took into consideration the report made to the people of this county by their deputies to the state convention. Whereupon,

Resolved unanimously, first, That we highly approve of the conduct of our deputies in assenting to and ratifying the constitution of the united states, as proposed by the late federal convention.

Second, That the chairman be requested to return our hearty thanks to the said deputies, for their patriotism, public spirit, and faithful discharge of their duty, as representatives of this county.

Third, That their report, together with these resolutions, be transmitted by the chairman to Philadelphia, for publication.

Signed, by order of the meeting,  
ALEX. PATTERSON, Ch.

Report of the deputies of Northampton county, in the late convention of the state of Pennsylvania.

Friends and fellow citizens of Northampton county,

THE representatives of this county in the late convention of this state think it their duty, as servants of the public, to lay before you, their constituents, the result of their deliberations upon the new constitution for the united states, submitted to their consideration by a resolve of the legislature for calling a state convention.

The debates at large we have reason to expect will be published, wherein those, whose inclination may lead them to it, will find a detail of all the arguments made use of either for or against the adoption of the constitution. Our intention, therefore, is not to enter fully into an investigation of the component parts of it, but only to inform our constituents that it has been carefully examined in all its parts; that every objection that could be offered to it has been heard and attended to; and that upon mature deliberation, two thirds of the whole number of deputies from the city and counties in this state have, in the name and by the authority of the people of this state, fully ratified it, upon the most clear conviction,

1st. That the state of America required a concentration and union of the powers of government for all general purposes of the united states.

2dly. That the constitution proposed by the late convention of the united states, held at Philadelphia, was the best form that could be devised and agreed upon.

3dly. That such a constitution will enable the representatives of the different states in the union to restore the commerce of all the states in general, and this in particular, to its former prosperity.

4thly. That by a diminution of taxes upon real estates, agriculture may be encouraged, and the prices of lands, which have of late greatly declined, will be increased to their former value.

5thly. That by imposing duties on foreign luxuries, not only arts and manufactures will be encouraged in our own country; but the public creditors of this state and the united states will be rendered secure in their demands, without any perceptible burden on the people.

6thly. That all disputes which might otherwise arise, concerning territory or jurisdiction, between neighbouring states, will be settled in the ordinary mode of distributing justice, without war or bloodshed.

7thly. That the support of government will be less expensive than under the present constitutions of the different states.

8thly. That all partial laws of any particular state for the defeating contracts between parties, or rendering the compliance therewith on one part easier than was originally intended, and fraudulent to the other party, are effectually provided against, by a prohibition of paper money and tender laws. And

9thly. That peace, liberty and safety, the great objects for which the late united colonies, now free independent states, expended so much blood and treasure, can only be secured by such an union of interests as this constitution has provided for.

In full confidence that our unanimous conviction and concurrence in favour of this constitution will meet the entire approbation of our constituents, the freemen and citizens of this county, we have the honour to subscribe ourselves, their devoted servants,

John Arndt,  
Stephen Ballist,  
Joseph Horsfield,  
David Desbler,  
Easton, Dec. 20,  
1787.

## RESOLUTIONS of the tradesmen of the town of Boston.

Boston, January 7, 1788.

**W**HEREAS some persons, intending to injure the reputation of the tradesmen of this town, have asserted, that they were unfriendly and adverse to the adoption of the constitution of the united states of America, as proposed on the 17th September last, by the convention of the united states assembled in Philadelphia. Therefore, to manifest the falsehood of such assertions, and to discover to the world our sentiments of the proposed frame of government,

*Be it* **RESOLVED,**

1. **THAT** such assertions are false and groundless; and it is the sense of this body, that all those, who propagate such reports, have no other view than the injury of our reputation, or the attainment of their own wicked purposes, on base and false grounds.

2. **THAT** in the judgment of this body, the proposed frame of government is well calculated to secure the liberties, protect the property, and guard the rights of the citizens of America; and it is our warmest wish and prayer that the same should be adopted by this commonwealth.

3. **THAT** it is our opinion, if said constitution should be adopted by the united states of America, trade and navigation will revive and increase, employ and subsistence will be afforded to many of our townsmen, who are now suffering for want of the necessaries of life; that it will promote industry and morality; render us respectable as a nation; and procure us all the blessings to which we are entitled from the natural wealth of our country, our capacity for improvement, from our industry, our freedom and independence.

4. **THAT** it is the sense of this body, that if the proposed frame of government should be rejected, the

small remains of commerce yet left us, will be annihilated, the various trades and handicrafts dependent thereon, must decay; our poor will be increased, and many of our worthy and skilful mechanics compelled to seek employ and subsistence in strange lands.

5. **THAT**, in the late election of delegates to represent this town in convention, it was our design, and [in] the opinion of this body, the design of every good man in town, to elect such men, and such only, as would exert their utmost ability to promote the adoption of the proposed frame of government in all its parts, without any conditions, pretended amendments, or alterations whatever: and that such, and such only, will truly represent the feelings, wishes, and desires of their constituents: and if any of the delegates of this town should oppose the adoption of said frame of government in gross, or under pretence of making amendments, or alterations of any kind, or of annexing conditions to their acceptance, such delegate or delegates will act contrary to the best interests, the strongest feelings, and warmest wishes of the tradesmen of the town of Boston.

JOHN LUCAS, per order.



*Extract of a letter from his excellency general Washington, to a friend in Fredericburgh.*

**I** Thank you for your kind congratulation on my safe return from the convention, and am pleased that the proceedings of it have met your approbation.—My decided opinion of the matter is, that there is no alternative between the adoption of it and anarchy. If one state (however important it may conceive itself to be) or a minority of them, should suppose that they can dictate



a constitution to the union (unless they have the power of applying the *ultima ratio* to good effect) they will find themselves deceived. All the opposition to it that I have yet seen, is, I must confess, addressed more to the passions than to reason; and clear I am, if another federal convention is attempted, that the sentiments of the members will be more discordant, or less accommodating than the last. In fine, they will agree upon no general plan. General government is now suspended by a thread. I might go further, and say, it is really at an end, and what will be the consequence of a fruitless attempt to amend the one which is offered, before it is tried, or of the delay from the attempt, does not in my judgment need the gift of prophecy to predict.

"I am not a blind admirer (for I saw the imperfections of the constitution I aided in the birth of before it was handed to the public): but I am fully persuaded it is the best that can be obtained at this time; that it is free from many of the imperfections with which it is charged; and that it, or disunion, is before us to choose from. If the first is our election, when the defects of it are experienced, a constitutional door is opened for amendments, and may be adopted in a peaceable manner, without tumult or disorder."



*Antifederal arguments.*

*Argument I.*

IT has been published to the people, that dr. Franklin was opposed to the constitution, and consented to sign it merely as a witness.

*Answer.*

Doctor Franklin, in his speech, assigning his reasons for agreeing to the constitution, says, "I hope, therefore, that for our sakes, as a part of the people, and for the sake of our

posterity, we shall act heartily and unanimously in recommending this constitution, wherever our influence may extend."

II.

It has been published, that mr. Jay had changed his opinion, and affirmed the new constitution to be the most artful trap that had ever been laid to catch the liberties of mankind.

*Answer.*

Mr. Jay, in his letter to mr. Vaughan, of Philadelphia, says, "You have my authority to deny the change of sentiment it imputes to me, and to declare that, in my opinion, it is advisable for the people of America to adopt the constitution proposed by late convention."

III.

It is asserted, that mr. Ellsworth, of Connecticut, withdrew from the convention.

*Answer.*

Mr. Ellsworth and mr. Sherman, in their joint letter, enclosing the constitution to their legislature, say, "We wish it may meet the approbation of the several states, and be the means of securing their rights, and lengthening out their tranquility."

IV.

Mr. Richard Henry Lee, in a letter to the governor of Virginia, says, "It has hitherto been supposed a fundamental maxim, that in governments rightly balanced, the different branches of the legislature should be unconnected, and that the legislative and executive powers, should be separate."

*Answer.*

In the British constitution, which is thought to be the best balanced in the world, the legislative and executive powers are not separate. Montesquieu, speaking on this subject, says, the executive power ought to have a share in the legislature, by the power of rejecting; otherwise it would soon be stripped of its prerogative.

## V.

Mr. Richard Henry Lee says, in the same publication, "the president is for four years duration, and Virginia (for example) has one vote of thirteen in the choice of him, and this thirteenth vote not of the people, but electors, two removes from the people."

*Answer.*

By the constitution, the president is to be chosen by ninety-one electors, each having one vote: of this number Virginia has twelve, so that, instead of the thirteenth vote in the choice of president, Virginia (for example) has somewhat more than an eighth.

The constitution also admits of the people choosing the electors, so that the electors may be only one remove from the people.

## VI.

It is also said by Mr. Richard Henry Lee, that the people of this country have thought a bill of rights necessary to regulate the exercise of the great power given to their rulers, as appears by the various bills or declarations of rights, whereon the governments of the greater number of the states are founded.

*Answer.*

Only five states appear, by the book of constitutions, to have a bill of rights, which are the lesser number of states.



*To the hon. Richard Henry Lee, esq.*

Sir,

YOUR name has been given to the people of America, in a letter to the governor of Virginia, with a number of observations of the utmost importance to the public happiness. Authorized by this circumstance, and the privileges of an American citizen, I have undertaken to address you. Though my want of information and the necessary talents may prevent my doing complete jus-

tice to the particular point which I mean to investigate, I promise you the respect due to your character, and to the honourable employments you have held in the service of our common country. Should I suggest to you or any other fellow citizen, facts and considerations sufficient to remove this objection to the federal constitution, my wishes will be fulfilled. At all events, however, I shall avail myself of the attention which your name will insure to my address, and will carry it, by that advantage, to the minds of our countrymen.

The power of enacting commercial laws by "a bare majority" of the congressional legislature, appears to be a principal objection in your view of the subject; and, if I am rightly informed, it is considered in the same light by the two honourable Virginians, who withheld their names from the act of the federal convention. Such names, sir, and objections, upon so grand a point, it is not my intention to treat lightly; yet your remarks must be dispassionately canvassed, without any undue respect to the eminent characters that suggest or support them.

In order to ascertain in what manner the legislative powers of the united states will be exercised on the commercial subject, it will be necessary to trace the federal legislature up to its several sources. You speak of the supposed danger from this power of congress as an object of peculiar apprehension to the five southern states, from whence I presume, and I hope not unfairly, that you concur with me in considering their true interests as decidedly agricultural—and in believing that the federal legislature, whether in one branch or in the other, so far as it shall be constituted by them, will be duly attentive to the landed interests of America, and cautious against any injurious measures which may be attempted by

the mercantile representatives. Your candour will readily grant, that to those five southern states, we may add Delaware and New-Jersey, two states the most absolutely agricultural of any in the union by reason of the adjacent situations of Philadelphia and New York.

Before we proceed to consider the true leading interest, and views of the six remaining members of our confederacy, let us remember, that upon your own statement, and the evidence of facts, it is clearly established, that in the senate of America, we shall always be certain of a majority of two devoted to her landed interests, and in the house of representatives of a majority of three; for Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Jersey are to send fourteen votes to the senate, which has twenty-six members, and thirty-four to the federal house of representatives, whose whole number is sixty-five. The erection of Kentucke and Vermont, which appears certain, into independent governments, the increasing population of the western parts of the Atlantic states, and the establishment of new members of the union on the lands of congress, will all operate to lessen the weight of the six states, in regard to which your apprehension exists, and will increase that preponderancy which we see the other seven already possess.

Let us now turn our cool, but close, attention to those six states, from whose supposed views and interests these apprehensions arise. As Pennsylvania enjoys as great a share of foreign commerce as any one of the number, and as her true situation is the most minutely known to me, I will begin there. The city of Philadelphia, the centre of our commerce, or rather its only mart, sends five members to our state legislature. The district of Southwark has always weight enough to nominate one

member of the county of Philadelphia; and that part of the northern liberties, which joins the city, has always the opportunity of nominating another county member. These form the whole commercial representation in our assembly, upon the most exaggerated statement. Seven persons only in a house, which consists of sixty-nine members—a little more than one tenth of the body. There is not in this commonwealth, nor can there ever be, another sea port. Residing out of Philadelphia, and its above appurtenances, there is not one merchant. But the tree is ever best known by its fruits. The majority of the Pennsylvania members of congress, elected by the ballots of our legislature, are not commercial men. Of our delegates for the last year, and of our delegates for the current year, four out of five in each appointment have not the smallest interest in trade. The fifth, in each year, we find to be the prior of a respectable mercantile house; but though his property in trade must be very considerable, and his commercial connexions are certainly extensive, it is equally certain that his landed estate, and his monies in our public funds, are, each, greater in amount than his capital in trade. It is also a well known fact, that the most influential merchants of Pennsylvania are very capital land-holders in the various counties of this state, and of those adjacent, from Virginia to New York, inclusive. To such a degree are they connected with the agricultural interest, that I will venture to assert in this paper, which is to be published under their eyes, that the property employed by them, (taken collectively), in every species of commerce, is very far short of the value of their landed estates. How different from these are the circumstances of the merchants of Holland, France, or even of Great Britain—yet how unavailing is the influence

of the representatives of the trading and manufacturing towns in that commercial country, when the landed gentlemen unite against them!—We know that on those occasions, when contests arise in our legislature between the agricultural and commercial members, the latter are ever obliged to yield to the irresistible power of the landed interest: and from the construction of the house, which is truly stated in this letter, as well as from the unalterable nature of things in Pennsylvania, this must ever be the case. The importance of our commerce is well understood, but its most sincere and powerful friends admit, and even assert the superior importance of agriculture.

Omitting, at this time, to say any thing of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire, as less extensive in commerce than New York and Massachusetts, I will venture to affirm, without detailing the situation of the two latter states, that the comparative weight of their merchants is very much the same, when opposed to their country gentlemen, as has been stated in respect to Pennsylvania. A little more or less it must necessarily be; but the difference is very greatly in favour of their farmers—If a doubt can exist in regard to either of them, it must be with respect to Massachusetts: but that will vanish, when we remember their great superiority over this state, in the number of free white inhabitants.

By way of general review of this subject, I shall give you the substance, and nearly the words, of a late publication on “the principles of a commercial system for the united states,” addressed to the federal convention, during their late sitting, by a merchant (not a landholder) of Philadelphia.

“Just opinions on our general affairs, must necessarily precede such a wise system of commercial regulati-

ons, as will extend our trade as far as it can be carried, without affecting unfavourably our other weighty interests. It may, therefore, be useful to take a comparative view of the two most important objects in the united states—our agriculture and commerce.

“In a country blessed with a fertile soil, and a climate admitting steady labour, where the cheapness of land tempts the European from his home, and the manufacturer from his trade, we are led, by a few moments of reflection, to fix on agriculture as the great leading interest. From this we shall find most of our advantages result, so far as they arise from the nature of our affairs, and where they are not produced by the coercion of laws: the fisheries are the principal exception.

“In order to make a true estimate of the magnitude of agriculture, we must remember, that it is encouraged by few or no duties on the importation of rival produce—that, with a small exception in favour of our fisheries, it furnishes outward cargoes not only for all our own ships, but those also which foreign nations send to our ports, or, in other words, that it pays for all our importations; that it supplies a part of the clothing of our people, and the food of them and their cattle; that what is consumed at home, including the materials for manufacturing, is four or five times the value of what is exported; that the number of people employed in agriculture, is at least nine parts in ten of the inhabitants of America; that therefore the planters and farmers form the body of the militia, the bulwark of the nation; that the value of property occupied by agriculture, is manifold greater than that of the property employed in any other way; that the settlement of our waste lands, and subdividing our improved farms, is every year increasing the pre-emi-

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nence of the agricultural interest ; that the resources we derive from it, are at all times certain and indispensibly necessary ; and lastly, that the rural life promotes health and morality by its active nature, and by keeping our people from the luxuries and vices of the towns. In short, agriculture appears to be the spring of our commerce, and the parent of our manufactures.

“ The commerce of America, including our exports, imports, shipping, manufactures, and fisheries, may be properly considered as forming one interest. So uninformed and mistaken have many of us been, that it has been stated as the greatest object in our affairs, and I fear it is yet believed by some to be the most important interest of New England. But from the best calculations I have been able to make, I cannot raise the proportion of property, or the number of men employed in manufactures, fisheries, navigation, and trade, to one eighth of the property and people occupied by agriculture, even in that commercial quarter of the union. In making this estimate, I have deducted something from the value and population of the large towns, for the idle and dissipated, for those who live upon their incomes, and for supernumerary domestic servants. But the disproportion is much greater, taking the union at large : for several of the states have little commerce, and no manufactures—others have no commerce, and scarcely manufacture any thing. The timber, iron, cordage, and many other articles necessary for building ships to fish or trade—nine parts in ten of their cargoes—the subsistence of the manufacturers, and much of their raw materials—are the produce of our lands. In almost all of the countries of Europe, judicious writers have considered commerce as the handmaid of agriculture. If true there, with us it must be unques-

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tionable, for we have few manufactories to throw into the scale against the landed interest. We have in our lands full employment for our present inhabitants ; and instead of sending colonies to new discovered islands, we have adjoining townships and counties, whose vacant fields await the future increase of our people.

“ As a comparative view of the importance of our various interests, thus terminates in a decided and great superiority of agriculture over all the rest combined—as emigration and natural increase are daily adding to the number of our planters and farmers—as the states are possessed of millions of vacant acres, that court the cultivator’s hand—as the settlement of these immense tracts will greatly and steadily increase the objects of taxation, the resources, the powers of the country—as they will prove an inherent treasure, of which neither folly nor chance can deprive us, we should be careful to do nothing that can interrupt this happy progress of our affairs. But should we, from a misconception of our true interests, or from any other cause, form a system of commercial regulations, prejudicial to this great mass of property, to this great body of the people, we shall injure our country during the continuance of the error, and must finally adopt a plan which will promote that evident, most important, and essential interest—the agriculture of the united states.”

Here, sir, let us pause a moment. Let us consider with that candour, which I am sure you love, and which the interesting nature of the subject requires, the foregoing facts and observations. Two conclusions, it appears to me, will inevitably result from them in a mind as just and enlightened as yours ; 1st, that since there is no state legislature in our confederacy, wherein the landed gentlemen will not at all times form a

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great and commanding majority, and as there are some in which a commercial interest is entirely unknown, so there is an unquestionable certainty that much the greater part of the federal senate, whom they are to depute, will be always attached to the agricultural interest; and 2ndly, as there is no state in the union in which the planters or farmers do not form an irresistible majority of the people at large, and as there are some in which a permanent mercantile house is not to be found, so there is also an indubitable certainty, that much the greater part of the federal representatives will be always devoted to the landed interest of the united states.

But, sir, let us proceed to your next difficulty on this point. You ask, how are you to build ships in your commonwealth, and from whence are you to procure seamen? I will venture to promise you as many Virginia built ships as you can profitably employ, on as low terms as they can be built in Philadelphia or New York. There is nothing in our commerce more certain; and the merchants of this city know it from the experience of real facts. The port of Philadelphia has ever had, among the vessels belonging to it, great numbers built in the other states, the southern as well as the northern. In regard to seamen, Pennsylvania has few natives in that line. Certain employment, and a little higher wages, will draw them to Virginia from New England, the West Indies, and Europe, as they have always drawn them to Philadelphia.

With respect to the shipping of America, I am very doubtful whether the merchants of those states, that have not large and valuable exports, will continue to own vessels in any great numbers. Many will, no doubt, be built there; but when our country and our commerce are once

more brought to order, the merchants residing at the great scenes of export, will find it profitable and convenient to purchase or build ships, by which the northern owner will be so far interfered with. I will venture, therefore, to predict, that however cheap vessels may be hereafter in New England, there will be many built on the waters of the Chesapeake, and very many owned by the merchants residing on them. Already is the matter arrived to such a point, that few men desire to be the permanent owners of vessels in the New England states. That country has been much deceived by looking to the example of Holland, to produce whose commercial aggrandizement many circumstances conspired, that do not exist at this time, and which can never take place in America. That province was an asylum of religious liberty, or at least of toleration, for the oppressed people of the surrounding nations, a point on which all our states must be happy and equal, as long as no religious test is necessary to a share in our federal government. Holland was also an asylum of political liberty, in regard to which the southern states will be on a footing with the northern. The Dutch lived amongst surrounding nations, who, in the early days of their republic, paid no regard to commerce; whereas every state in America views it with an eager, desiring eye, and pursues it to the utmost of her power. And lastly, the Dutch provinces had, by various means, amassed so large a monied capital, and obtained such a footing in regard to foreign colonies, necessary in the European trade, before the importance of commerce was discovered by their neighbours, that it was impossible to contend with the mighty force of the first, or to deprive them of their strong hold of the last. This you know, sir, was the situation of Holland; but in the

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affairs of the united states, foreign colonies, subservient to commerce, must for a long time remain not even a matter of expectation or desire: and if ever the time shall arrive when the American confederacy will possess such dependencies, they must be equally accessible to the vessels of the southern states, and to those of the northern. With respect to a powerful monied capital, the value of their productions must, with the same republican habits and manners, give our southern citizens a decided superiority over their northern brethren.

The steady and unalterable course of events is daily increasing the weight of agriculture, and of the southern states. If we cast our eyes upon a map of America, we shall instantly perceive, that even the unsettled parts of Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, greatly exceed the whole country of New England. Emigration to the eastern states never takes place, but from thence it constantly does; and will keep down their numbers; while, by that very circumstance, as well as by emigration from Europe, will the people of the western and southern country increase and multiply, carrying annually to a greater degree the established preponderancy of agriculture, and throwing still greater weight into the southern scale.

The apprehensions you entertain, concerning the interference of the commercial with the agricultural interests of the united states, ought not to have been reserved. I rejoice at your explicit declaration of them, because I hope it may lead those, whose particular duty it is, to give the subject a thorough investigation, which I confidently trust will terminate in the total dissipation of their fears.

I have the honour to be,  
with very great respect, &c.

AN AMERICAN.

*Law case.—Court of common pleas, Charleston.*

*Saunders versus Brisbane.*

ON the 25th of May 1785, came on in the court of common pleas in Charleston, a special action brought at the instance of mrs. Ann Saunders, against mr. Brisbane, sheriff to the board of police held in that city in British times. The case appeared to be, that mrs. Saunders sold three negroes to a mr. Lahiffe for upwards of 500l. This sum being reduced (according to the then scale of depreciation) to something about 100l. sterling, a bond was given for the amount. To enforce the payment of interest, the plaintiff was obliged to have recourse to the board of police, in which court she obtained a judgment against mr. Lahiffe for 9l. 16s. This judgment was given to the sheriff, by authority of which he seized upon a negro of mr. Lahiffe; but the plaintiff having no other intention in instituting the suit than to stay property, expressly enjoined the sheriff not to proceed to sale. This order he did not think proper to comply with, and sold a valuable negro, for the low price of 27 guineas. In 1784, mrs. Saunders, being ignorant of the sale, brought a second action against mr. Lahiffe in the court of common pleas, when Lahiffe proved the great injury done to him by this sale, and pleaded, that altho' the negro had been sold under the order of the board of police, at a far inferior price to his value, yet that he should be allowed to discount his full worth on the bond given to mrs. Saunders. Of this opinion were the jury, and estimated his worth at 70l. The balance in favour of the plaintiff then was five pounds, for which sum they gave a verdict. In this distressing situation, mrs. Saunders had no remedy left but the present action. Mr. Attorney

General, as counsel for the defendant, contended that it was a rule in law, that a man who received money for another could not be called upon for more than what he had received. In the present case, whatever ill consequences had happened to Mr. Lahiffe, must be set out of the question, or, if kept in view, must be imputed to Mrs. Saunders, who had brought the first suit; the sheriff had only acted as her agent, or as the servant of the board of police; it was exceedingly hard that he should now be called upon to pay more than he had received for the negro—this sum of 27 guineas he was ready to account for. With respect to the sale taking place in contradiction to the plaintiff's orders, the reason was, that another attachment had been issued against the fellow—Mr. Lahiffe had left the place, and there were circumstances which led to a belief, that the fellow would follow his master. Mr. Fraser, counsel for the plaintiff, said, that the jury were bound by the principles of justice, of equity, and of law, to find a verdict for his client—she had done nothing reprehensible; and yet, without they interposed in her behalf, she must severely suffer. He hoped they would not only give a verdict for the full value of what she had lost in the suit against Lahiffe, but also allow interest up to the present time. The court thought the action was well laid, and that the only point was to ascertain the quantum of damages, which lay in the breasts of the jury, who gave a verdict of thirty pounds in favour of the plaintiff.



*Law report.—Court of king's bench,  
London, June 5, 1787.*

*Hay versus Haldimand.*

**T**HIS was an action of trespass and false imprisonment, brought

by the plaintiff, Mr. Charles Hay, a wine cooper of Quebec, against Sir Frederick Haldimand, as governor of that province, for arresting him on suspicion of high treason, as a man disaffected to the king's government and measures, during the late disputes with America, and confining him in a loathsome cell, during the space of three years and sixteen days.

Mr. Bearcroft, for the plaintiff, proved the warrant of commitment, dated April 10, 1780, signed by H. S. Crumney, by order of his excellency the governor; and the term of imprisonment was candidly admitted by the other side.

Mr. Arthur Murphy, on the same side with Mr. Bearcroft, examined several witnesses, particularly Hector M'Cawly, who proved that the plaintiff was arrested and sent to the provost, the military prison, 16 feet by 24, with seven other prisoners, the filth and nastiness of which was so excessive, that the plaintiff's health was considerably impaired; that all access to him was denied; only that his wife could procure an interview by means of disguising herself in the habit of a Canadian woman—it was also in evidence, that for a considerable length of time the prisoners were obliged to perform the necessities of nature in a large tub, which stood in one corner of the room.

Several depositions also were read, which proved, that at the siege of Quebec, Mr. Hay had refused to take an active part in defending the place, and had with many other gentlemen, on the governor's proclamation for that purpose, retired from the city.

The prosecutor's case being thus proved,

Mr. Erskine for the defendant, made a most animated speech. He represented Sir Frederick Haldimand as a foreigner employed by his majesty in a war of much difficulty; who, with the exception of a few foreign



princes, was the only foreigner who ever obtained any title in this country; and who deserved it the more, as the only province now remaining, out of our extensive empire in America was preserved by the activity, and meritorious services of this foreigner, who was the defendant in the present action.—His majesty had entrusted him, with the fullest powers, not only military but civil, which would be a sufficient justification against the process now depending. But independent of the authority with which he was invested, and the circumstances which led him to the proceeding, he hoped the jury would in the first instance reflect on what would be the reasoning of every officer in future, when his personal security was opposed to that of the state. It was not to be imagined, that every officer was sufficiently a lawyer to know what may be the point of law in every part of his conduct; nor would it be very advisable to make it a necessary consideration for a general, under great exigencies, to reflect how the measures he might be inclined to take, would be approved of by a jury at Guildhall. Waving, however, any defence of that kind, he would rest it chiefly on the discretion and authority which his majesty's commission afforded the defendant; and would contend, that sir Frederick Haldimand was not only justifiable, but extremely meritorious, in what he had done.

He then produced general M<sup>r</sup> Lean, a witness, who proved, that on the prospect of Quebec being besieged by general Arnold, he, as deputy governor, had summoned the inhabitants, and had required their assistance to defend the place; that mr. Hay, among others, had refused to do so; that some time after this, two men were apprehended in the woods, one of whom, Kenny, appeared to be a servant to mr. Hay; that two

bills for 100l. with a letter of credit to a mr. Cruded, were found upon Kenny, with a certificate from his old master, of his fidelity and service, couched in very equivocal and ambiguous terms; that he, general M<sup>r</sup> Lean, had transmitted this intelligence to general Haldimand, with his suspicions that the certificate in question was calculated only for the purpose of recommending him to the Americans, the better to foment a disposition which then subsisted of joining the American and French army, to reduce Quebec. And a variety of other minute circumstances fully proved that mr. Hay very much disapproved of the American war; but no evidence of absolute disloyalty was given against him.

Sir H. Clinton confirmed the account of the province of Canada being threatened with an attack from the French and Americans conjunctively, at the time of this imprisonment.

General Robertson's testimony went to the same import.

The whole evidence being closed,

Mr. Bearcroft replied to mr. Erskine, and stated that the conduct of general Haldimand, however injudicious, was by no means to be considered as intentionally wrong. He also admitted, that he was invested with a commission of civil as well as military authority; but he at the same time contended, that at the very time this violence was committed, the province of Canada was in the most profound peace; the act for suspending the habeas corpus act was fully expired, and there was no legal ground whatever for committing the plaintiff. Nor was there any power to be delegated from the constitutional privileges of England, which could authorise such a commitment as that under which the plaintiff was confined, of "being in custody till further orders." He desired his oppo-

nents to mention any act, which could justify such a proceeding, under any enquiry—and the more so, as there was no legal proof of even sufficient ground for suspicion of misconduct in *mr. Hay*.

Judge Buller, in his charge to the jury, said it admitted of no dispute, but that the defendant was invested, by his commission, with powers as well civil as military, but considered it at the same time equally evident, that in the present transaction he acted solely in his civil capacity. He was equally sensible, that there was no law which could justify such a commitment as that which affected the plaintiff; nor was the defendant, in his civil capacity, admitted to receive any other suspicion to justify a commitment, but what was given on oath—a requisite, which, in this case, was wholly dispensed with. The only question, then, for the jury, was, whether the ground was laid strong; which, after recapitulating the various points of evidence, appeared to him by no means to be the case. He recommended, notwithstanding, that the jury might take into their consideration, the motives on which the general acted, which certainly were good ones; and, therefore, without considering whether he had any chance of being reimbursed by the public or not, they should pay some attention to his motives, in the damages they might award, should they give a verdict for the plaintiff.

The jury, after a little consideration, gave a verdict of 200*l.* damages, against the defendant.



*Letter on the culture of silk.*

*To the editor of the Museum,*

I Am not a little pleased, sir, to perceive the public attention

turned towards the increase of our manufactures, and especially to learn what noble efforts are about to be made in Connecticut \* for the reformation and multiplication of silk. Your correspondent very justly observes that it is a most capital object. A former governor of Connecticut clothed himself and his family in silk, produced at home. Georgia reckons it one of her staple commodities, and that the middle states are fit for it, is abundantly proved by the enclosed authentic list of cocoons, created merely by the exertion of sound sense in individuals, unaided by any public co-operation, which I send to be recorded in your useful repository. Other articles meriting serious regard, are the cultivation, in large quantities, of the myrtle wax shrub (*myrica cerifera foliis lanceolatis subferratis caule arborecente*) so suitable to the sandy grounds of New Jersey. Bees wax, too, might, without much trouble or expence, be made a considerable head of exportation, now the method is known of taking honey without killing the bees. Indigo, the richest gem of Carolina, succeeds well in Jersey and Pennsylvania, and even grows spontaneously. Cotton ripens there sufficiently, and is easily cultivated. Foreign sheep ought to be procured to improve the present breed. The Ancona hemp, or rather a tall strong flax, is reported as superior to any other sort. Our farmers should introduce foreign grasses, such as sainfoin for light sandy lands, lucerne for rich soils; and it is high time to abandon the unprofitable practice of fallowing their fields, or letting them lie idle for three or four years.

NOTE.

\* See American Museum, for October, 1787, page 354—355.

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An account of the cocoons (or silk balls) purchased at the filature on Philadelphia during the summer of the year 1771, taken from the original laid before the assembly of New Jersey, by the managers, in December, 1771.

Purchased from July 4th, to July 10th, 1771.

From June 25th, to July 3d, 1771.

	lb.	oz.
Of sundry persons,	71	8
Of ditto,	29	
Of ditto	11	12
Of John Roberts, Philadel-		
phia county,	2	12
Of John Burges's, Bucks,	13	
Of Edward Gibbs, Jersey,	27	4
Of Joseph Lippincott, Jersey,	6	1
Of Moles Patterfon, Kent on		
Delaware,	40	6
Of James Barns, Bucks co.	10	
Of Rachael Perry, do,	24	8
Of Grace Beale, Chester co.	4	11
Of Rhoda Hibbert, Jersey,	2	8
Of Thomas Dutton, do,	21	9
Of William Hall, Philadel.	10	
Of John Bigonie, Philad. co.	52	2
Of Mary Parker, Darby,	10	
Of Grace Fish, Jersey,	44	
Of Isaac Hornor, do,	13	
Of Elizabeth Atkinson, Jerf.	25	13
Of Sarah Bispham, ditto,	61	8
Of Mary Pearson, Darby,	21	
Of Elizabeth Peacock, Jerf.	7	8
Of Lyndon Brown, Bucks co.	15	2
Of Adam Luz, Philadel.	4	
Of Henry Clemens, Jersey,	3	6
Of Abigail Davis, Chester,	3	3
Of Mary Pearson, Daby,	30	12
Of Jos. Morgan, Pensaukin,	62	4
Of Sarah Fordam, Darby,	6	
Of Mary Branson, Jersey,	13	3
Of Aquilla Jones, ditto,	23	8
Of Ann Cole, ditto,	35	8
Of Seneka Lucan, Phil. co.	39	8
Of Samuel Davis, Lancaster,	7	8
Of John Asbridge, ditto,	75	10
Of Hester Johns, Jersey,	4	8
	817	15

	lb.	oz.
Of John Shivers, Jersey,	10	
Of Mary Wood, Jersey	29	
Of Ann Cochran, Darby,	25	12
Of Mary Longstreath, Phi. c.	17	
Of Rebecca Worrel, Philad.	6	
Of Mary Lush, Philadel.	29	
Of Rachael Hays, Darby,	13	12
Of Mary Ofler, Jersey,	6	8
Of Jas. Millhouse, Chester c.	52	
Of Eliz. Roberts, Philad. c.	1	
Of Sarah Roberts, ditto,	7	
Of Isaac Newton, Jersey,	4	10
Of Hannah Ferimore, Jersey,	8	8
Of Caleb Johnson, Lancaster,	44	4
Of Mary Shoemaker, Phila.	14	6
Of Hannah Brown, Jersey,		14
Of Robert Carle, Pennsylv.	2	12
Of Mary Richarfon, ditto,	3	11
Of Elizabeth Patton, ditto,	23	4
Of Titus Fell, Bucks county,	96	
Of Eliz. Roberts, Philad. co.	1	8
Of Ann Davis, Chester co.	2	15
Of Elizabeth Bonfal, ditto,	7	
Of Mary Davis, ditto,	2	4
Of Sarah Dicks, ditto,	47	10
Of John Etwine, North-		
ampton county,	110	
Of Francis Miller, Phila. co.	13	13
	580	7

From July 11th, to the 18th, 1771.

	lb.	oz.
Of Catharine Evans, Che-		
ster county,	14	
Of William Henry, Lan-		
caster,	16	
Of Mary Jones, Chester co.	19	12
Of Priscilla Fentham, Ma-		
ryland,	27	
Of Mary Luft,	5	
Of Frederic Walper,	4	11
Of Joseph Fisher	2	
Of Jacob Myers,	3	10
Of Benjamin Leghman,		9
	92	10

From July 18, to July 24th, 1771.

	lb.	oz.
Of William Henry, Lancaster,	1	8
Of fundry persons,	7	6
Of Sarah Wilfon, Philadel.	3	8
Of Isaac Whitlock, Lancas.	4	
Of Sarah Dutton, Phil. co.	10	9
Of Jane Davis, Chester,	28	12
Of Jacob Worral, do.	2	
Of Mary Thorn, Jersey,	67	13
Of Anna Wetherill, Jersey,	4	8
Of Marmaduke Watfon,	33	
Of Margaret Reiley, Chest.	11	10
	174	10

From July 25th, to August 1st. 1771.

	lb.	oz.
Of Joseph Lippincott, Jersey,		4
Of Edward Siddon, do.	12	2
Of John Hoops, Chester,	23	10
Of Isaac Evans, Jersey,	2	12
Of Henry Thomas, Chester,	8	6
	47	2

From August 8th, to the 15th 1771.

	lb.	oz.
Of Nicholas Garrison, Northampton county,	41	8
Purchased from June 25, to July 3, 1771.	817	15
From July 4, to July 10,	580	7
From July 11, to 18,	92	10
From 18 to 24,	174	10
From 25, to August 1,	47	2
From August 8, to Aug. 15,	41	8
Total,	1754	4

The whole quantity of cocoons brought to the filature, was about 2300 lb. upwards of 1700 lb. were bought by the managers, the rest were reeled for the owners. 619 lb.

of the 1700 lb. were raised in New Jersey, and the proprietors of them, in common with those raised in Pennsylvania, by way of encouragement, received at least one fifth more than the real value. Besides this, two fifths of all the premiums paid by the managers, were to persons in New Jersey. These expences, together with furnishing the filature with proper utensils, hiring reelers at very high wages, to teach others, and such accidents and disappointments as are incident to all new undertakings, have so diminished their capital, that the managers found it necessary to petition the assembly of Pennsylvania in September last, for their aid and encouragement; but, as it was near the end of the year, that assembly could do no more than, 'recommend it to the particular notice of the succeeding assembly as a matter of very great consequence to the interest of this province.'

The present assembly has not yet met to do business, but the managers cannot doubt of a hearty disposition in the house to patronize the culture of silk in Pennsylvania, as that is all which can be expected from them; and the managers' funds being too small to grant either bounty or premiums another year—therefore, these facts are respectfully submitted to the consideration of the legislature of New Jersey, hoping, so public spirited a design will meet with such encouragement in that province, as the trials already made, seem to warrant.

Philadelphia, Dec. 9, 1771.

Signed,

Francis Allison,

Charles More,

Benjamin Morgan,

Edward Pennington,

Isaac Bartram,

Robert Strettel Jones,

Samuel Miles,

Thomas Clifford,

Abel James

Cadwalader Evans.



Many cocoons were also raised and used in private families, so that the quantity of raw silk made during the year 1771, at the very outset of the undertaking, in the middle states was probably more than three thousand pounds avoirdupois, and this when manufactured could not be valued at less than four thousand pounds sterling.

Citizens of America,

Now you are gloriously emancipated from the political thralldom of England, disdain to be held by her in commercial chains. Revive the silk manufacture, establish that of cotton, extend those of iron, copper, lead, leather, fur, clay, wood, linen and woollen, and in a few years the people will be fully employed and multiply exceedingly, the country will abound in gold and silver coin, commerce will spread far and wide over the globe, and agriculture will flourish more than ever in soils and climates adapted to every branch of it.

Perhaps nothing could more especially forward measures so desirable, than the personal example of our prime gentlemen and ladies, for consumption is the best friend to manufacture, and the consumption of foreign luxuries has operated dreadfully against us since the revolution. I am informed by a merchant of New York that the importation of rum alone into that port, during the last year, amounted to upwards of two hundred thousand pounds of their currency.

Will you give me leave to suggest and submit to public consideration, the form of a voluntary association to be signed by all federal officers, civil, naval and military, at the time of taking the oath of office, and to commence with the new government which happily for our native land is soon to be perfected? *Regis ad exemplum totius componitur orbis. Longum iter est per precepta, breve et efficax per exempla.*

Vol. III. No. I.

"I, G. W. President of the united states of North America (or I, B. F. vice president of the united states of North America, *mutatis mutandis*) do hereby pledge my honour that whenever I perform the functions of my office I will be dressed principally in the manufactures of the united states, and I do promise to pay to the federal clerk of assembly one silver dollar for every day that I shall be discovered, during the times aforesaid, to be dressed in a hat, coat, waistcoat, breeches, shirt, stockings, or shoes of foreign manufacture."

Such forfeitures to be disposed of for the benefit of American mechanics at the discretion of the president, vice president, senators and representatives in their private capacities.

If it be objected that sufficient materials for such purposes cannot be obtained, I answer, that demand not only increases the quantity to any amount but never fails to meliorate, to diversify and render cheaper the fabrics, as is evinced by the experience of every age and country.



#### The old bachelor. No. IV.

HAVING in my former numbers, as in the former part of my life, made pretty free with myself, I think it time to tack about and be serious; however I seem so disposed at present, and bachelors from their supposed oddity, have a right to be as various as they please, which indeed is one of their happiest privileges, but as I have been severe upon myself for not marrying, I have a fair pretension to be as severe on those who marry from false motives. They richly deserve what they suffer; many of them are paid for it, and it is right they should have their bargain. As badly off as I am, I had rather be a solitary bachelor, than a miserable married man. No M

wife is better than a bad one, and the same of a husband. As I well know what the inconveniences of a single life are, and can give a shrewd guess at the disquietudes of a miserable married one, I would endeavour, *Dives* like, to warn others how they come into either of these places of torment. While I was pondering upon this subject, I accidentally hit on the following curious dissertation on unhappy marriages, which I have transcribed as a convenient introduction to my future thoughts on that head.

*Reflections on unhappy marriages.*

Though it is confessed on all hands that the weal or woe of life depends on no one circumstance so critical as matrimony; yet how few seem to be influenced by this universal acknowledgment, or act with a caution becoming the danger!

Those that are undone this way, are the young, the rash and amorous, whose hearts are ever glowing with desire, whose eyes are ever roaming after beauty; these doat on the first amiable image that chance throws in their way, and when the flame is once kindled, would risque eternity itself to appease it. But still, like their first parents, they no sooner taste the tempting fruit but their eyes are opened; the folly of their intemperance becomes visible; shame succeeds first, and then repentance; but sorrow for themselves, soon turns to anger with the innocent cause of their unhappiness; Hence flow bitter reproaches and keen invectives, which end in mutual hatred and contempt: Love abhors clamour and soon flies away, and happiness finds no entrance when love is gone. Thus for a few hours of dalliance, I will not call it affection, the repose of all their future days are sacrificed; and those, who but just before seemed to live only for each other, now would almost

cease to live, that the separation might be eternal.

But hold, says the man of phlegm and economy, all are not of this hasty turn—I allow it—there are persons in the world who are young without passions, and in health without appetite: these hunt out a wife as they go to Smithfield for a horse; and intermarry fortunes, not minds, or even bodies: In this case the bridegroom has no joy but in taking possession of the portion, and the bride dreams of little beside new clothes, visits and congratulations. Thus, as their expectations of pleasure are not very great, neither is the disappointment very grievous; they just keep each other in countenance, live decently, and are as fond the twentieth year of matrimony, as the first. But I would not advise any one to call this state of insipidity happiness, because it would argue him both ignorant of its nature, and incapable of enjoying it. Mere absence of pain will undoubtedly constitute ease; and without ease, there can be no happiness: Ease, however, is but the medium, through which happiness is tasted, and but passively receives what the last actively bestows: if therefore, the rash who marry inconsiderately, perish in the storms raised by their own passions, these slumber away their days in a sluggish calm, and rather dream they live, than experience it by a series of actual sensible enjoyments.

As matrimonial happiness, then, is neither the result of insipidity or ill grounded passion, surely those who make their court to age, ugliness, and all that is detestable both in mind and body, cannot hope to find it, though qualified with all the riches that avarice covets, or *Plutus* could bestow. Matches of this kind are downright prostitution, however softened by the letter of the law; and he or she who receives the

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golden equivalent of youth and beauty so wretchedly bestowed, can never enjoy what they so dearly purchased: The shocking incumbrance would render the sumptuous banquet tasteless, and the magnificent bed loathsome; rest would disdain the one, and appetite sicken at the other; uneasiness wait upon both; even gratitude itself would almost cease to be obliging, and good manners grow such a burden, that the best bred or best natured people breathing, would be often tempted to throw it down.

But say we would not wonder that those who either marry gold without love, or love without gold, should be miserable; I can't forbear being astonished, if such, whose fortunes are affluent, whose desires were mutual, who equally languished for the happy moment before it came, and seemed for a while to be equally transported when it had taken place: If even these should, in the end, prove as unhappy as either of the others. And yet, how often is this the melancholy circumstance? As extacy abates, coolness succeeds, which often makes way for indifference, and that for neglect: Sure of each other by the nuptial band, they no longer take any pains to be mutually agreeable: careless if they displease, and yet angry if reproached; with so little relish for each other's company, that any body's else is more welcome, and more entertaining. Their union thus broke, they pursue separate pleasures; never meet but to wrangle, or part, but to find comfort in other society. After this the descent is easy to utter aversion, which having wearied itself out with heart-burnings, clamours, and affronts, subsides into a perfect insensibility; when fresh objects of love step into their relief on either side, and mutual infidelity makes way for mutual complaisance, that each may be the better able to deceive the other.

I shall conclude with the sentiments of an American savage on this subject, who being advised by one of our countrymen to marry according to the ceremonies of the church, as being the ordinance of an infinitely wise and good God; briskly replied, "That either the christian's God was not so good and wise as he was represented, or he never meddled with the marriages of his people; since not one in a hundred of them, had any thing to do either with happiness or common sense. Hence, continued he, as soon as ever you meet, you long to part, and not having this relief in your power, by way of revenge, double each other's misery: Whereas in ours, which have no other ceremony than mutual affection, and last no longer than they bestow mutual pleasures, we make it our business to oblige the heart we are afraid to lose; and being at liberty to separate, seldom or never feel the inclination. But if any should be found so wretched among us, as to hate where the only commerce ought to be love, we instantly dissolve the band: God made us all in pairs; each has his mate somewhere or other; and it is our duty to find each other out, since no creature was ever intended to be miserable."



## Anecdote.

AT the opening of one of the courts of law in Massachusetts, lately, a clergyman was sent for to address the deity—a gentleman present observed, that although this was ever the laudable practice, at the supreme judicial court, *these* courts had never, in his memory, opened with prayer. A sailor, who heard the last remark, observed to his mess-mate, "If so, Jack, I believe as how the ship is really in distress, since they pipe all hands, and now call the parson to his quarters."

## S E L E C T P O E T R Y.

A POEM, *addressed to the PEOPLE of VIRGINIA, on New-Year's day,* 1788.

**F**AIR *Virginia*, ever dear,  
See arriv'd th' important year !  
While the annual song I pay,  
Truth inspires the patriot lay :  
Wake !—too long thy sons have  
dream'd—

Where's the sister state, that beam'd  
Fairer in the dawn of fame,  
Glowing with a purer flame ?  
Shall the ancient wreaths you gain'd,  
By thy latter deeds be stain'd ?  
Shall not fed'ral conduct crown  
All thy acts of old renown ?  
*Union* into ruin hurl'd,  
Shall a tyrant grasp a world ?  
Or shall sep'rate *unions* grow,  
Endless source of war and woe !  
Or, if *anarchy* ensue,  
Who hath more to lose than you ?

Shall we basely sell the boon,  
Bought with so much blood, so soon ?  
Oh ! the muse a tale could tell,  
How our heroes fought and fell—  
Must our *empire's* short-liv'd reign  
Prove they fought and bled in vain ?

Blest Virginians, sum the cost !  
Shall the price of blood be lost ?  
Lost the blessings ye possess,  
Freedom and the pow'r to bless ?  
Your's are planted plains and farms,  
Villas fair in rural charms ;  
Lovely girls and prattling boys,  
All the blifs of home-born joys ;  
When the soothing voice invites  
Guests to hospitable rights.—  
Your's th' illimitable waste,  
Flow'ry meads and valleys vast ;  
Your's stupendous cliffs that rise,  
Bosom'd high in fleecy skies ;  
Your's the Alleganean hills,  
Spouting forth in num'rous rills.  
List ye, how, from many a shore,

Distant sons of ocean roar ?  
Rivers broad to you belong,  
Yet to run in deathless song—  
Fair Ohio gently roves,  
Through the sweet Acaſian groves :  
Rappahannock (founding name)  
And Fluvanna flow to fame ;  
Pohawtan ſuberbly rolls ;  
Great Potomack, void of ſhoals ;  
Miſſiſſippi's waves will gain,  
Spite of fraud, for you, the main ;  
Harveſts, by your fields ſupplied,  
Then may float on ev'ry tide.

Go, thou *miſcreant*, from whole  
tongue

Accents of *DISUNION* rung ;  
At the ſhrine of *ſelf*, in lies,  
Every bleſſing ſacrifice !  
Bid the kindling beacons far,  
Light the realms to civil war ;  
Bid the drum's obſtrep'rous ſound,  
Rumbling run along the ground ;  
Bid the trumpet ſing to arms,  
Swell the cannon's dread alarms ;  
Wake the clang of ſteel again ;  
Purple every flood and plain ;  
Make the ſickning harveſt die,  
Burning cities ſcorch the ſky :  
Heav'n for this, ſhall on thy head  
Chofen bolts of vengeance ſhed !

Round our forests, on our coaſt,  
We have nobler names to boaſt—  
Liberal ſouls, by none ſurpaſt,  
Names with time itſelf to laſt.  
Hail *Virginia's* patriot ſons,  
*Griffin, Blair, M'Clurg and Jones !*  
Join the *Pages* firm and juſt :  
*Steward* faithful to his truſt :  
*Maddiſon*, above the reſt,  
Pouring from his narrow cheſt,  
More than *Greek* or *Roman* ſenſe,  
Boundleſs tides of eloquence :  
*Withs*, who drank the ſource of truth,  
Skill'd in lore of laws from youth ;  
*Thruſton's* mind, of ample teach ;  
*Innis*, fraught with pow'ful ſpeech,



Too reluctant to engage !  
 Pendleton, with locks of age,  
 Mild his eye of wisdom beams,  
 Sent from other worlds he seems,  
 Heav'n resume not such a loan,  
 Ere we make his choice our own !  
 Erit the *Lees*, a glorious band,  
 For their country made a stand,  
 Wise and brave, unapt to yield,  
 In the council or the field ;  
 Why asunder are they torn ?  
 Why his \* loss must millions mourn,  
 Who, to glad th' astonish'd earth,  
 Spoke an empire into birth ?  
 While the awful hour demands,  
 Ablest heads and purest hands,  
 Him, in vain, we call from far,  
 Second splendor, other star,  
 Light and glory of the age,  
 Jefferson, the learned sage !  
 Let a name adorn our state,  
 Great as modest, good as great,  
 Though unnam'd, illustrious far,  
 PRIDE OF PEACE AND STRENGTH OF  
 WAR !

Though a few, or false or blind,  
 Strive to taint the public mind ;

\* R. H. Lee made the motion in  
 Congress for the declaration of indepen-  
 dence, July 4, 1776.

Trust the muse's heav'n-taught strain,  
 All the noise, the labor's vain—  
*Numbers vast* will own the plan,  
 That secures the rights of man ;  
 Gives the *states* their destin'd place,  
 High amidst the human race :  
 Our *illustrious heroes* then,  
 (First of sages, best of men)  
 Will the nation's cares assume,  
 And again avert its doom.

Bards ! your wreaths immortal  
 twine :  
 Brighter days begin to shine.  
 Come ye freemen ! patriots come !  
 Read with me Columbia's doom—  
 Lo ! invol'd in yonder skies,  
 Fair the year of glory lies.  
 Ravish'd far, in vision'd trance,  
 I behold, with mystic glance,  
 Towns extend on many a bank,  
 Late with darkling thickets dank,  
 And the gilded spires arise,  
 Grateful to propitious skies—  
 Arts, refinements, morals blest,  
 Claim perfection in the west—  
 Peace, with commerce in her train,  
 Brings a golden age again—  
 While our woven wings unfurl'd  
 Sail triumphant round the world.  
 Alexandria, January 10, 1788.



Monitory epistle, addressed to a young lady.

SWEET, lovely girl ! my best, my dearest care,  
 As Hebe blooming, and as Venus fair ;  
 Thy tender years no artifice can know,  
 A heart like thine can fear no latent foe,  
 In ev'ry scene some smiling joy will rise  
 And gayest prospects only glad thine eyes ;  
 Delusive dreams as real forms appear,  
 And sanguine wishes silence ev'ry fear,  
 And innocence that knows itself no guile,  
 Will see a friend in every specious smile,  
 Catch fond belief from ev'ry soothing tongue,  
 And paint delight forever fair and young.  
 But know, my fair, a thousand snares surround,  
 And ev'ry step you tread is dang'rous ground ;  
 From open foes, and less from treach'rous friends,  
 E'en prudence scarce her votaries defends !

And prudence comes by sound advice alone :  
 Then learn to make these maxims all your own.  
 First, know, thy bloom will fade, those roses die,  
 And time obscure the brilliance of that eye ;  
 Thy winning grace will lose its pow'r to charm,  
 Thy smile to vanquish, and thy breast to warm :  
 The reign of beauty, like the blooming flow'r,  
 Is but the pride and pageant of an hour ;  
 To day its sweets perfume the ambient air,  
 To morrow sees it shrunk, nor longer fair :  
 Such the extent of all external sway ;  
 At best, the glory of a short-liv'd day.  
 Then let the mind your noblest care engage ;  
 Its beauties last beyond the flight of age :  
 The mental charms protract each dying grace,  
 And renovate the bloom that deck'd the beauteous face.  
 Let ev'ry virtue reign within thy breast,  
 That heav'n approves, or makes its owner blest ;  
 To candour, truth and charity divine,  
 The modest, decent, lovely virtues join.  
 Let wit well-temper'd meet with sense refin'd,  
 And ev'ry thought express the polish'd mind,  
 A mind above the meanness of deceit ;  
 Of honor pure—in conscious virtue great ;  
 In ev'ry change that keeps one steady aim,  
 And feels that joy and virtue are the same.  
 And O ! let prudence o'er each thought preside,  
 Direct in public, and in private guide ;  
 Teach thee the snares of artifice to shun,  
 And know, not feel how others were undone :  
 Teach thee to tell the flatt'rer from the friend,  
 And those who love from those who but pretend.  
 Ah ! ne'er let flatt'ry tempt you to believe,  
 For man is false, and flatters to deceive :  
 Adores those charms his falshood would disdain,  
 And laughs at confidence he strives to gain.  
 And if delight your bosom e'er would taste,  
 O shun the vicious, dread the faithless breast !  
 Infection breathes where'er they take their way,  
 And weeping innocence becomes a prey :  
 The slightest blasts a female's bliss destroy,  
 And taint the source of all her sweetest joy ;  
 Kill ev'ry blossom, over-run each flow'r,  
 And wrest from beauty all its charming pow'r :  
 The dying bud may burst to life again,  
 And herbs o'erspread the snow-invested plain ;  
 Green leaves may clothe the wintry widow'd trees,  
 And where frost nipt may fan the western breeze——  
 “ But beauteous woman no redemption knows  
 “ The wounds of honour time can never close ;”  
 Her virtue sunk, to light can never rise,  
 Nor lustre beam from once guilt clouded eyes,

Fix'd be the mind those pleasures to pursue,  
That reason points as permanent and true :  
Think not that bliss can mingle with a throng,  
Whirl'd by a tide of idle forms along :  
Think not that pleasure lives with pomp and state,  
Or soothes the bosoms of the rich and great :  
Think not to meet her at the ball, the play,  
Where flirt the frolicsome and haunt the gay :  
Think not she flutters on the public walk,  
Or prompts the tongue that pours unmeaning talk,  
Or loves the breath of compliment to feel,  
Or stamps on crowns her estimable seal :  
True female pleasure, of more modest kind,  
Springs from the heart, and lives within the mind ;  
From noisy mirth and grandeur's rout she flies,  
And in domestic duties wholly lies.  
As fades the flow'r that's rear'd with tender care,  
When left expos'd to storms and chilling air,  
So fades the fair in reason's sober eye,  
That braves the crowd, nor heeds the danger nigh ;  
Who giddy roves with folly's motley queen,  
Nor loves the transports of a life serene.  
Be thine the friendship of a chosen few,  
To ev'ry virtue uniformly true ;  
Be thine the converse of some kindred mind,  
Candid to all, but not to errors blind :  
Prudent to check or warn unguarded youth,  
And guide thy steps in innocence and truth.  
Those who regard, will fulsome language wave,  
And, in the friend sincere, forget the slave :  
Will make, like me, your happiness their care,  
Nor wink at specks, that render you less fair—  
From books, too, draw much profit and delight,  
At early morning, and at latest night :  
But far, oh far ! from thy chaste eyes remove  
The bloated page that paints licentious love,  
That wakes the passions, but not mends the heart,  
And only leads to infamy and art !  
Let Addison's and Johnson's moral page,  
And Hawkesworth's pleasing stile thy hours engage.  
From Milton feel the warm poetic fire,  
Whom all the nymphs of Helicon inspire.  
With Thomson round the varied seasons rove,  
His chaste ideas ev'ry heart improve.  
Let tuneful Pope instruct you how to sing,  
To frame the lay, and raise the trembling wing.  
Let deathless Shakespear, nature's fav'rite child,  
Great above measure, and sublimely wild,  
Of human manners give the picture true,  
For ever changing, and for ever new—  
Such be thy joys—and through this varied life,  
Whether a maid, a mother, or a wife,

May fair content for ever fill thy breast,  
 And not an anxious care disturb thy rest :  
 May love, the purest passion of the skies,  
 Play round thy heart, and sparkle in thine eyes !  
 May all thy worth be virtue's sweet reward,  
 And goodness only claim thy just regard !  
 And when this busy scene of life is o'er,  
 And vain illusions vex the heart no more,  
 'Midst brightest saints, O may I meet my dear,  
 And feel that love improv'd I cherish'd here !

ALBERTO.



## A riddle.

*From the Pennsylvania magazine.*

**M**Y parent bred me to the sea ;  
 I've been where never man could be.  
 Long time I rang'd the ocean wide,  
 And all the rage of the storms defied :  
 Though louring clouds obscur'd the sky,  
 And foaming billows mounted high ;  
 Though winds with utmost fury blew,  
 And thunders roll'd and lightnings flew ;  
 Waves, winds, and thunders all in vain  
 Oppos'd my passage through the main.  
 At length my parent died, and I  
 On shore would needs my fortune try—  
 I left the sea—grew fond of show,  
 Drefs'd neat, and soon became a beau.  
 My body's taper, tall, and straight,  
 I chiefly dwell among the great ;  
 Am, like a bridegroom, clad in white,  
 And much the ladies I delight ;  
 Attend when Chloe goes to rest—  
 Chloe is by my presence blest ;  
 Nor ghost nor goblin can the fear,  
 Nor midnight hag, if I am near.  
 No more a seaman bold and rough,  
 I shine at balls, am fond of snuff :  
 To gay assemblies I repair,  
 And make a flaming figure there.  
 At last a burning fever came,  
 That quite dissolv'd my tender frame :  
 I wasted fast, light-headed grew ;  
 Of all my friends not one I knew ;  
 Great drops of sweat ran down my side,  
 And I, alas ! by inches died.

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## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*Amsterdam, October 4.*

THE negotiations of our city whether with the duke of Brunswick, or at the Hague, have terminated in an entire submission to the court of Prussia, and to her royal highness the princess of Orange, as appears by the following placard :

" The burgomasters and counsellors of the city of Amsterdam, find themselves obliged to declare to the worthy corps of burghers, that they have always conscientiously endeavoured to act conformably to the advantage of their dear country in general, and that of this city in particular, and that still, in their present circumstances, the good of this city, and that of its inhabitants, is dearer to them than their own lives, and the preservation of their honours, employments and their property.

" The great and imminent danger in which they are involved, and the little time which with difficulty they had obtained to deliberate, not having permitted them to make fully known to the burghers, all that has been transacted, to preserve this good city from the dreadful mischiefs that seemed to impend, they have been obliged to accede to the points which the other members of the states of Holland have agreed to; and to charge the deputies of this city to yield to every demand, in case they cannot act otherwise—even the dismissal of the established regents—rather than risque greater damages to the town and inhabitants, in addition to those which they have hitherto suffered; and after all, perhaps, after having undergone these losses, to be obliged to submit to demands still more afflicting. They call God to witness, from whom nothing can be concealed, and the oath which

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they took on assuming the magistracy, that they have no other view in conceding every thing, than the prevention of the certain and irreparable ruin of the city.

" Since they are constrained to give up all, they will at least endeavour, and they hope to be able, to preserve the most perfect tranquility and security in this very populous city; to the effecting of which they expect, with confidence, that the brave burghers, who have exerted themselves with so much zeal for the preservation of the tranquility, will continue to exercise the same efforts, and the same zeal, to maintain public quiet in the city, and to preserve each individual from all manner of violence and oppression.

" Done the 3d of October,

By me,

H. N. HASSELAER, sec'ry.

*October 13.* A complete revolution has taken place in the political and civil government of this city. The magistrates, who had been removed from their offices by the party in opposition to the stadtholder, were restored to their seats in the senate and city council. On the 9th inst. the grand officers and burghermasters, who had been expelled or secluded by the faction, resumed the exercise of their several stations; and on the following day the secluded counsellors were reinstated in their offices; the persons who had been appointed by the faction to supersede them, made a virtue of necessity; they resigned without any struggle, and gave up employments which they could no longer hold.

On Tuesday last, the burghermasters received the following letter from his highness the duke of Brunswick

wick, dated Amsterdam, the 9th instant:

"In order to secure the requisition of his Prussian majesty, and the honour of his arms, of being assured of the disarming the auxiliaries and free corps that shall be found in Amsterdam, I demand of the burghermasters and council of the city, for my entire satisfaction of the legal mode of their being disarmed, that the Leyden port, or gate, be delivered to his majesty's troops, that shall appear there to-morrow at noon; and I pledge myself no one shall come into the city; that the strictest discipline shall be observed, and that the troops shall stay no longer, after the resolution of the state, with respect to their being disarmed, shall have been put in execution. You see, gentlemen, I ask no more than what the states require, and what other cities, such as Dordrecht and Rotterdam desired of me. C. G. F. D. OF BRUNSWICK."

In consequence of the above, on Wednesday morning, a deputation of two burghermasters, and two counsellors, waited on his highness, who was near the Leyden port, or gate, in order to settle every thing relative to the present circumstances; and in the afternoon 150 of the Prussian troops came into the city, took possession of that port, and the following capitulation was agreed upon:

1st. That the Prussian troops shall take possession of the Leyden gate, with one hundred and fifty men and two pieces of cannon.

2d. That two squadrons of light horse should be quartered at Overtoom.

3d. That none of the king's troops come into the city without permission of the magistrates.

4th. That the burghermasters and council of the city shall take the necessary steps for securing of the sluices, at Haarlem and Mulden posts.

5th. That the burghermasters and council shall give to the duke of Brunswick, a daily account how far the resolutions of the city are brought forward.

6th. That mons. Haaren, as commissioner on behalf of the duke of Brunswick, shall be instructed to what extent they have proceeded in disarming the people.

[On the day of the surrender, a skirmish took place in the city between the citizens of the two parties; it was occasioned by the faction placing wheel-barrows, covered with earth, in those streets through which the stadtholder's friends were advancing on horseback. This with some other insults, caused a battle to ensue, in which some Jews were killed and others wounded. Soon after, however, peace was entirely restored; and on the 11th, the Prussians took entire possession of Amsterdam.]

*Hague, Oct. 7.* We learn from Zirickzee in Zealand, that the populace, having met in several parts, have committed the greatest excesses. We have a list of 170 houses which they have pillaged; more than 50 have been pulled down to the ground; five persons have had their throats cut. Two hundred families who have escaped these mutineers, have retired to Antwerp, where the Austrian government have granted them an asylum and protection.

*London, Oct. 5.* The D. of Brunswick having refused any terms short of the entire submission of the city of Amsterdam, was the reason that the advanced guards of the city were attacked on the morning of the 1st instant, by the Prussian troops; the engagement continued for seven hours, and the Prussians were repulsed in three places, and made their retreat, which occasioned some disorder; but when the mail came away, the duke was going against Amster-

dam, in full force with all his artillery, and it is supposed is now in possession of that city.

The following is a statement of a special law case, which has lately occurred, (Forward against Pittwood) wherein the defendant was a common carrier, to whom the plaintiff had delivered a parcel of hops, to be carried by the defendant's waggon. The defendant put them into his warehouse, and during the night a fire broke out at an adjoining house, which communicated to and consumed the defendant's warehouse, and the plaintiff's goods therein. The question for the court to determine was, "Whether the plaintiff was entitled to recover." Lord Mansfield stated, that a common carrier is in the nature of an insurer; and that he is liable for every thing, except the act of God and the king's enemies; that is, even for inevitable accidents, with those exceptions. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiff.

The produce of the fertile and beautiful island of Jamaica, has been long an object of envy with our enemies. The fort of Port Royal is now made very strong. There cannot be too much care taken of 3,500,000 acres of such valuable ground, which is nearly four times as much as all the other British sugar islands put together. The cultivated land of this charming island, the lands cleared of woods, and that applied to pasturage, consist of 600,000 acres; the Savanna, 250,000; the rocky, roads, river courses, &c. 350,000. There remain yet uncultivated 2,350,000 acres. Only about one-fourth of the land fit for cultivation is settled; if the other three were settled, the annual revenue derived from thence to this country would be very considerably enhanced; at present it is not less than 700,000.

October 8. The following is a copy

of an official note presented by Mr. Grenville to the comte de Montmorin, on the 4th of October, 1787.

"HIS Britannic majesty, considering on that friendship which happily exists between him and his most christian majesty, thinks he has a right of asking some explanations on the subject of those armaments which are now carried on in all the harbours of France. A treaty of peace between the two crowns, settled on principles which seem to insure its permanency, a treaty of commerce lately signed and mutually executed, a reciprocal settlement of the interests of the two nations in the East-Indies, the intimate connections lately entered into by the merchants of both nations, all seem to remove the idea of any hostile intention against Great-Britain; nevertheless, France is arming, and his Britannic majesty cannot trace any European power against which the most christian king can possibly have any cause of complaint.

"The commotions in the united Netherlands, it is true, have alarmed Europe; but the king of Great-Britain reposes too great a confidence in the declarations of his most christian majesty, to believe that he intends to support a drooping party in the province of Holland, against the voice of the majority of those united provinces, with whom alone he has formed an alliance; he cannot therefore suppose that the armaments of France can possibly have that object in view.

"His Britannic majesty, on the other hand, is informed, that the most christian king has lately sent considerable forces to the East-Indies, part of which have stopped at the Cape of Good Hope and Trincomale; neither France nor the united Netherlands have any enemies in that part of the world, and the king of Great Britain feeling himself interest-

ted in those measures more immediately than any other power, wishes to be acquainted with the reasons of those expeditions.

" His Britannic majesty desires nothing so sincerely as to maintain the harmony which exists between Great Britain and France, and being persuaded that the most christian king is filled with the same sentiment, doubts not but that he will embrace this friendly communication, in order to elucidate the misunderstandings which might arise from the armaments of France.

*The comte de Montmorin's answer.*

" The king, persuaded that the explanations which his Britannic majesty wishes to receive, originate in his friendly dispositions, is willing to explain the motive of his armament. The faith reposed in treaties, formerly held so sacred, has been several times violated within this century, in a manner so unprecedented, that it is become the duty of every power to prepare itself for war, even in the bosom of peace, at the least motion of any of its neighbours. All Europe knows that France has not exhibited any precedents of those unjustifiable violations, and the king, too jealous of the dignity of his crown, would disdain taking such an advantage over an unprepared neighbour. His Britannic majesty is not ignorant of the respective situations of France and Great Britain, at the beginning of last August in Europe, as well as in both Indies, and the King having religiously remained since on the defensive, sufficiently evinces the purity of his intentions. His most christian majesty being determined to fulfil his treaty of alliance with the united Netherlands, and wishing to prevent any power from taking advantages of the trouble of those provinces, to seize on some parts of their possessions in Europe, and in both Indies, has thought necessary to be prepared to protect them, as soon

as the states general should require it. The armaments of Great Britain in the negociations of her ministers in all the European courts, and her well-known steps to dissolve the alliance between France and the united Netherlands, and to accelerate the war between the Ottoman empire and Russia, Austria, and the republic of Venice; such are the reasons which have obliged the king to increase his means of defence, the extent of which has been proportioned to the preparations carried on in Great Britain. Sheltered now from any danger of surprise, he is firmly determined not to begin hostilities; and, prepared for war, although sincerely desirous of peace, he waits to lay down his arms, that England should have adopted similar measures."

*Oct. 20.* A letter from Amsterdam, dated Oct. 12, says, mr. Van Berkel, and another burger or two, who were most inimical to the stadtholder, made their escape by sea; and a considerable number of the refractory of the Amsterdammers were sent by the Prussian general to Cleves.

This is an era of great importance in the French monarchy. The malversation of the government has brought on a crisis in the minds of the people. They seem ready to take fire; and was not the despotic power of the grand monarch supported by a vast standing army, it is believed that the history of France would record a great revolution.

*Nov. 8.* Since the publication of the declarations, insurances to the West-Indies, which were done at ten percent. in case of war, have fallen to four.

*Nov. 9.* The loss sustained by the Russian Squadron in the Black Sea is now confirmed, and turns out to be infinitely more calamitous than was at first imagined. Besides the one ship of the line, of which we have had accounts as falling into the hands of the Turks, six other men of



war, large, new, and well-equipped ships perished in the storm. This severe blow has completely disabled the Russians for a time, from acting against the Ottoman Porte by sea.

Mr. Nairne, of London, has received a letter from Dr. Franklin, in America; which states, that the cover of his mahogany-box, which held artificial magnets, and fitted it at London and Paris, was too small in America. The air of America must therefore be drier than that of Europe.

Two commissioners on the part of the court of France are shortly expected in England, to observe that the reduction of our navy has taken place agreeably to the ratification. Mons. de Bougainville is one of the persons named, and two British naval officers are to be sent to the French ports in order to observe a like conduct.

Letters from Berlin and Hamburg declare war between Sweden and Russia to be inevitable; they add, that in the interview at Karminieck, it was agreed that Poland should provide 30,000 troops, in case of hostilities with the Porte, and that by way of compensation, the republic should be put in possession of Moldavia.

Authentic information was received on the 23d ult. from Holland—the affairs of that distracted republic, are not likely to be so speedily restored to tranquillity as it was generally expected. When M. de Thulemeyer, the Prussian ambassador at the Hague, first delivered the memorial that contained the intimation of that monarch's intended interference in the concerns of the states, nothing was said or written upon the subject, as to the motives for his conduct, beyond the mere wish to obtain reparation to the princess of Orange, for the insult she had received; since the surrender of Amsterdam, however, a different language has been held.

On a suggestion being thrown out to the duke of Brunswick, since the capitulation of that place, that it would tend to restore quiet, if the Prussian army were to retire from the city, M. de Thulemeyer sent a regular official intimation to the magistrates, that it was the determination of his master, not to quit Amsterdam until every farthing of the expence he had incurred in consequence of his preparations, was fully paid; at the same time rating the amount of this expenditure upon a most enormous scale.

This has thrown the council of Amsterdam into the utmost consternation. They cannot order the payment of the money, without regular authority from the states, and by their refusal, are exposed to the daily hazard of the plunder of the soldiery. On the declining to advance the sum demanded, M. de Thulemeyer informed them, he should publish a manifesto, declaratory of the purposes and resolutions of his master. On the interposition, however, of the princess of Orange, this violent measure was suspended till the ministers of the court of London should have been consulted. Accordingly a council was held yesterday in the evening, and two extraordinary messengers were dispatched, one to the king of Prussia, at Berlin, and another to Sir J. Harris, at the Hague.

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*American Intelligence,*

*Philadelphia, January 3.* A letter from a gentleman in Savannah, to his friend in this city, dated Dec. 8, says, "Since your departure from this country, we have been engaged, and are now in a war with the Creek Indians. Small parties have penetrated as low down as the Cononchee, killed our citizens, and done other damage. It is my firm belief, that it might have been stopped in the first stage, had the executive of this

country brought to trial a col, Alexander, who murdered eight or nine Indians on their hunting grounds. The legislature have ordered four regiments to be raised, of seven hundred and fifty men each; and at the expiration of the war, they are to receive a certain tract of country, within the Indian limits, for their services.

"Should the commissioners of North and South Carolina and Georgia, with the continental agent, meet speedily, I have hopes that they will adjust the dispute, whereby the unfortunate families who have been driven from their houses, may return in peace, and enjoy the fruits of their labour."

A letter from Baltimore, dated Dec. 28, says, "Our assembly were tried, while sitting, for a duty of one penny per lb. on imported nails, similar to your state: but though it passed the lower house, it was unexpectedly rejected by the senate, who are warm federalists, and thought it wrong to interfere in a matter that would so soon be out of their province."

In the political society lately instituted at Richmond, in Virginia, the new federal constitution was the subject of a public debate. After three evenings spent in discussing it, the yeas, in favour of it, were one hundred and twenty-eight; the yeas were only fifteen. The members of this society consist of the principal characters in Virginia. The principal speaker against the government, was Patrick Henry, esq. The principal speaker in favour of it, was Mr. Nicholas. It is expected there will be the same majority in the state convention.

Jan. 12. A letter from Carlisle, dated January 4, says, "I dare say you have heard of the unhappy rum-pus which took place here on the 25th ult. The spirit of rage and

discord is increasing every hour; squire Agnew issued warrants for some of the rioters, but none would venture to serve them; a boy indeed was taken, but the people of the town threatening to rise again, and the country people declaring they would come in and pull down the houses of any who should attempt to issue or execute any warrants, he was discharged.

Before the surrender of Amsterdam, water was sold at an English shilling a quart.

Jan. 16. On the ninth inst. the convention of the state of Connecticut, ratified the new constitution, by the following instrument:

"In the name of the people of the state of Connecticut:—We, the delegates of the people of said state, in general convention assembled, pursuant to an act of the legislature in October last, have assented to and ratified, and by these presents do assent to, ratify, and adopt the constitution reported by the convention of delegates in Philadelphia, on the seventeenth day of September, 1787, for the united states of America.

"Done in convention, this ninth day of January, A. D. 1788.

"In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands."

The votes for the constitution were 128—against it, 40.

Jan. 30. By late intelligence from Georgia, we are informed that that state has ratified the new constitution.

Portsmouth, (N. H.) Jan. 2. Ten states have called conventions—South Carolina we have not heard from—New-York as yet could not, and Rhode-Island—shame come upon her rulers for it—will not.

Newport, (R. I.) Jan. 10. At a town meeting specially convened at Littlecompton, in this state, on the first day of January instant, for the

purpose of considering the new federal constitution, it was voted, that a committee be appointed to draw up instructions for their deputies in general assembly, who reported accordingly instructions to captain George Simmons and Nathaniel Stiles, esqrs. their deputies, of which the following is an extract:

"That being deeply impressed with a sense of the extreme need we stand in of a well organized and energetic national government, and viewing the new federal constitution as a plan of government well adapted to the present critical situation of our national affairs, we do therefore enjoin it on you as our positive instructions, that you and each of you do use your utmost endeavours at the next session of the general assembly of this state, to have an act passed, recommending it to the several towns in this state, to choose delegates, as soon as may be, for the purpose of adopting or rejecting the new federal constitution, agreeably to the requisition of the honorable the national convention; and those our positive instructions, gentlemen, you must not fail to execute on pain of procuring our highest displeasure.

Submitted by,

David Hilliard

Perez Richmond,

John Davis,

} Committee."

Which report was accepted and passed as the instructions of the town of Littlecompton to their deputies in the general assembly.

*Peterborough, Jan. 3.* By an act of the present general assembly, the following duties are imposed on imported articles, payable in certificates, to take place the first day of March next.

	£.	s.	d.
Rum per gallon,	0	1	0
Brandy and other distilled spirits,	0	1	0
Madeira wine per gallon,	0	1	6
Other wines, ditto,	0	1	0
Porter,	0	0	9

Snuff per bottle,	0	1	0
Manufactured tobacco per lb.	0	1	0
Loaf and lump sugar per lb.	0	0	3
Coffee per lb.	0	0	3
Pepper, ditto,	0	0	6
Other spices,	0	0	4
Dressed leather per lb.	0	0	6
Tann'd ditto per lb.	0	0	4
Bohea tea,	0	1	0
Other teas,	0	2	0
Cordage per cwt.	0	4	0
Bar iron, per cwt.	0	4	0
Pots and other castings,	0	4	0
Nail rod, per cwt.	0	6	0
Wine in quart bottles, and others in proportion, per dozen,	0	3	0
Malt liquors in quart bottles per ditto,	0	2	6
Chariots and coaches,	20	0	0
Other four wheel carriages,	15	0	0
Two wheel carriages,	10	0	0
Clocks,	5	0	0
Axes per dozen,	0	8	0
Hoes per dozen,	0	6	0
Saddles a piece,	0	12	0
Ladies stuff or Morocco shoes per pair,	0	1	0
Ladies silk ditto,	0	2	0
Men's and women's shoes,	0	1	0
Shoe boots per pair,	0	6	0
Boot legs per pair,	0	1	6
Playing cards per dozen,	1	10	0
Coal per bushel,	0	0	6
Salt beef per cwt.	1	0	0
Ditto pork per cwt.	1	0	0
Candles per lb.	0	0	4
Butter per lb.	0	0	4
Soap per lb.	0	0	4

On all ready made wearing apparel not before enumerated (except gloves and stockings) or metal coat and waistcoat buttons, on all horse and carriage whips and walking canes, on all gold and silver lace, ten per cent. ad valorem, and upon all goods, wares, and merchandize, whatsoever, not above enumerated, except salt, a duty of three per cent.

*Wilmington, (Del.) Jan. 9.* On Thursday last, at a meeting of the

principal inhabitants of this borough, the following resolutions were agreed to, and signed :

That from and after the first day of January, 1788, we will kill no lamb, for sale, or our family use ; nor buy any of the same, or suffer it to be bought or used in our families, until the first day of January, 1789.

That on the first day of January

next, we will appear in a complete dress of the manufacture of one or more of the united states, at a general meeting to be held on that day.

That we will encourage and promote, as much as we reasonably can, the use of American manufactures, by giving them the preference to foreign articles, when there is any reasonable proportion between their prices and goodness.

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